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Red likely
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of Euro-bank

THE TIMES

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Warning on Europe's 'Trojan horse'

Major takes poll battle to Brussels

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR will today warn European Union politicians for mass unemployment across the continent and give a warning that acceptance of the social chapter in Britain would lead to all the problems that "brought us to our knees" in the 1970s.

The Prime Minister will deliver his attack in Brussels, but his underlying message will be aimed at the domestic audience as he seeks to highlight the biggest policy difference between the Conservatives and Labour. Labour has promised to sign the social chapter — which Mr Major will liken to a Trojan horse, saying: "Over-regulation does not work. As a result, nor do millions of Europeans."

He will tell businessmen at a meeting organised by the European Policy Forum that if Labour did sign up, there could be no turning back, saying: "It is no good pretending that once you have signed, you back out if you change your mind. It is not some mail-order mistake you can send back if you do not like it."

He will also state his belief that the EU is at a turning point, with a choice between

the British vision of an enterprise economy and the European "social model".

Mr Major's remarks are, however, likely to be dismissed by fellow European leaders: Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister who held talks with Mr Major at Downing Street yesterday, immediately denied that the social chapter had hindered job creation in France.

And John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said that "no amount of lies about Labour will cover up Tory divisions on Europe".

Mr Major's speech comes as the Government confronts Europe as a key election issue. Yesterday Michael Heseltine tried to depict the Tories as the better defendants of British interests when he unveiled a new poster showing a lion with a red tear in its eye and the slogan "New Labour, Euro Danger". And Mr Major clearly believes that the social chapter provides more fertile ground than the single currency for attacks on the Opposition.

There was a surprisingly muted response to Robin Cook's statement on Sunday

that a Labour government might join a single currency. Ministers said that it proved Labour was adopting a "fudge and enter" approach as opposed to the Government's "negotiate and decide" posture. But pro-European ministers were saying privately that the Government had to show extreme care in responding to Mr Cook: "The whole business world is asking questions about the single currency and the impact of not going in. We cannot wash our hands of it. Our line must be to decide what is in Britain's best interests."

Mr Major is, however, happy to emphasise the gap with Labour on social policy and tonight he will be caustic about Europe's attitude to competitiveness, which he regards as fundamentally flawed. He will say: "Today Europe faces a new challenge — how to keep our companies competitive and our people in work in the face of intense competition. The choice is between two different philosophies: the enterprise approach and the social model."

He intends to contrast costs in Germany, France and Italy with those in Britain and point to what he says will be damaging new regulations under the social chapter — including shifting the burden of proof in sex discrimination cases to the employer and increasing rights for part-time workers.

M. Juppé, however, insisted yesterday that there was no link between the social chapter and job creation — and he pointed to the recent drop in French unemployment.

The French Prime Minister also reaffirmed his belief that economic and monetary union would go ahead on time in 1999, with France as a participant, and he urged Britain to join at the outset.

Kenneth Clarke was meanwhile at an economic summit in Switzerland, repeating his doubts that the single currency target date could be met.

Peter Riddell, page 11
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King, who is so tame that he failed to get even a small stalk-on part in *Fierce Creatures*, John Cleese's new film

Tory lion is a pussy cat really

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE lion cast as the patriotic hero in the latest Conservative poster campaign was yesterday hailed by the party high command as the star of a big new film. But it soon emerged that the ageing celebrity, known as King, gave such a poor performance that it ended on the cutting room floor.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, had not done their homework when they extolled the filmstar qualities of King at the poster's launch yesterday. King will appear on thousands of billboards in an attempt to depict John Major as a Lionheart battling a European jungle of red tape.

Party officials unveiled the poster with a boast that King, the only domestically trained lion in the United Kingdom, had taken a lead role in *Fierce Creatures*, the new John Cleese film. They even quoted a critic who declared: "King has never been such a roaring success."

But the lion, who is handled by the Amazing Animals agency, was such a wimp in

the film that he was written out and not even given a stalk-on part.

It is easy to see why the advertising agency MC Saatchi was tempted by King, who lives in a private zoo at Clipping Norton, Oxfordshire. His owner is Sally Chipperfield who, like Mr Major, is from a famous circus family.

MC Saatchi ordered Amazing Animals to sign a confidentiality contract because it wanted to keep the back-

ground of its new political weapon firmly under wraps. It is easy to see why. This particular lion, former star of the Kestrel beer commercials among others, is hardly the traditional King of Beasts. A member of Equiety, he spends five days a week at the private zoo with Queenie, his mate.

He spends the remaining two days with a male partner. "If he spends too much time with his female partner he becomes fractious," said a spokeswoman for Conservative Central Office. "It is a real problem with lions."

MC Saatchi chose the lion, a popular symbol of Britain in heraldry since it was adopted by the Duke of Flanders in 1164, for its attempt to wrap the Tories in the Union Flag because there are three in the arms of England. The lion in the arms of Scotland is derived from the Earls of Northumberland and Huntingdon, the home of John Major.

King, who was born the year before Margaret Thatcher's third election victory, has little time for the European ideal. Jim Clubb, who runs Amazing Animals with Mrs Chipperfield, said: "He does not travel well. He has never

been to Europe. He was born and bred in England. Many of his clients travel here to see him. He is one of a kind."

The lion's aversion to travel may date back to when he was a cub and was stranded with two others in a trailer on a motorway with Mrs Chipperfield. "I've got three hungry lions stranded on the motorway," she told the , which responded in record time.

King has never been on safari or appeared in a circus. "He is not a circus animal. He is much happier in his zoo," said Mr Clubb. "He is as gentle as a lamb. I have never heard him roar."

Bhutto refuses to accept 'rigged' election

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

THE leader of Pakistan's Muslim League, Mian Nawaz Sharif, was confident of victory early today after a general election in which voter turnout fell to an unprecedented low — a sign of despair with a chaotic political system that seems to hold no prospect of stability or economic progress.

Benazir Bhutto, whose Pakistan People's Party was dismissed from power in November, said she expected to lose because of rigging and that she would not accept the result if defeated. Her remarks dash any hopes of a change which might restore Pakistan's faith in democracy or give the economy a chance of recovery.

Miss Bhutto relies more on street power than conventional opposition, a tactic also used by Mr Sharif in opposition. Strikes and demonstrations are a principal reason for the nation's near-bankruptcy.

These tactics drew criticism from Malcolm Fraser, the former Australian Prime Minister heading the Commonwealth group of observers. "People have become fed up with the behaviour of governments in Pakistan. We have met many people who believe the democratic process has let them down," he said.

Mr Fraser said the "basic conditions" for the election had been fulfilled, although he declined to use the term "free and fair". Those who had wanted to vote were able to do so in the way they wanted.

Lahore, the Punjab capital and Mr Sharif's home town, exploded in celebration before midnight in anticipation of a Muslim League victory.

The new Justice Movement led by Imran Khan, the former cricket captain, was heading for a resounding defeat.

Poll 'rigged', page 15

Tory mailshot to shareholders

By Arthur Leathley and Adam Jones

THE Prime Minister yesterday launched a £500,000 campaign to portray Labour as the "enemy of enterprise" by writing to private shareholders telling them that they would lose money under a Labour government.

More than 2.3 million letters bearing Mr Major's signature, carry a warning that recipients will be penalised by Labour's plans to impose a windfall tax on privatised utilities to "punish their success".

Conservative Central Office bought lists of shareholders in the privatised utilities at an estimated cost of £200,000.

The letters and postage are believed to have cost an extra £300,000. The letters were to owners of shares in Railtrack, the regional water and electricity companies, PowerGen and National Power, and British Energy, the nuclear power operator. Further letters to shareholders of other privatised companies, such as BT, BA and British Gas, have not been ruled out. There may also be letters on controversial issues such as the social chapter.

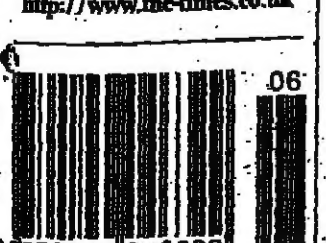
The campaign is being run with the assistance of Claydon Healey International, a direct marketing agency.

Reluctant hero's Colditz story

The death of Birendra Nath Mazumdar, who lived in retirement in the Devon village of Gampthorpe, has brought to light the story, kept secret for fifty years, of a reluctant hero who made a "home run" from Colditz.

By the time the Times overtook him, he was 90. He was born in 1906 in Calcutta, India, and came to Britain in 1928. He was a member of the Indian National Congress and was active in the Indian independence movement. He was arrested in 1942 and sent to Colditz, a notorious German prison for political prisoners. He managed to escape in 1945 and returned to India.

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Changing fortunes of the Lottery

By Joanna Bale

THE sharp contrast between the way in which lottery winners handle their fortunes after they have become overnight millionaires was revealed yesterday.

Penny Haigh, who won £1.3 million, still buys her clothes in Oxford shops and has been away on little more than a weekend visit to see friends in Britain since her win last year. Esther Tracey, who won the same amount, has been working her way around the world on exotic holidays while Mel Eddison has spent all of his £2.5 million jackpot in 18 months on a large house, expensive cars and paying off business debts. The three were among 25 winners, worth a total of £40 million, invited to a champagne launch of the Lottery's first mid-week draw in London.

Mrs Haigh, 46, from Doncaster, who helps run the family engineering business, said: "We were quite well off

before the win, but at one time I could only afford second-hand clothes from Oxford and it's difficult to change the habit of a lifetime, even with all that money in the bank."

"It's nice to be able to invest the money to provide a secure future for all of us, so I have no desire to start spending it all. We are still going to keep the business going and have not missed a day's work."

She and her husband, John,

are about to hand over their business to their two sons, but they have no plans for a luxurious retirement. Mr Haigh said: "We don't want to retire — we just enjoy our life as it is."

Mr Eddison, who was already a self-made millionaire from his pallet company and garage business, has enjoyed 18 months of "non-stop spending". He learned of his win while holidaying at his French

chateau and confessed: "It's all gone. I bought a half million pound mansion, a £60,000 Mercedes, gave £30,000 to family and friends and paid all my business debts off. It was fun while it lasted, but I've still got my French chateau and my Spanish villa."

Miss Tracey, 26, from Poplar, East London, an unemployed nursery nurse, has been on so many holidays since her win in 1995 that she has "lost count". Those she can remember include Paris, Florida, a Caribbean cruise, Madeira, Wales, Ireland, Tenerife, Lanzarote and even Blackpool, Clacton, Southend and Manchester.

She is renting a "yuppie" Docklands apartment overlooking the Thames, but is hoping to buy a house near by with an extra bedroom — just for her new clothes. When asked whether she has developed a penchant for designer clothes, she confessed: "I still shop at Evans — I'm too well-built for anything else."



All or nothing at all: Penny Haigh and Mel Eddison

Stepfather arrested in Zoe hunt

POLICE investigating the disappearance of Zoe Evans, aged nine, yesterday rearrested her stepfather (Kathryn Knight writes).

Zoe, who would have been ten on January 27, went missing from her home in Warminster, Wiltshire, on January 11. Despite police searches, still continuing yesterday, she has not been found.

Her mother, Paula Evans, 28, and stepfather, Miles Evans, 23, a private in the Royal Logistic Corps, were arrested and questioned for three days last month, but released without charge. Yesterday Mr Evans was rearrested.

Mrs Evans checked on Zoe, tucking her in, at 10.30pm on Friday, January 10. The bed was empty the next morning. Fears for her safety grew when two items stained with her blood were found on a railway embankment.

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مكذأ من الاصل

MPs' surge of millennial fever hits rock bottom

A boil on the bum of the millennium. This was the description offered by Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby) of the Millennium Dome planned for Greenwich. It contributed little to the millennium debate, but did settle what has been for years an undecided question at Westminster. Is "bum" a Parliamentary expression? It was open to Madam Speaker yesterday to rule the term unparliamentary, and tell Mr Mitchell to withdraw it. She did not. MPs should note: henceforward and until the dissolution of Parliament, bums are in order. It was not



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

only Mr Mitchell's language which was exotic. To ask his question, he sported an enormous tie featuring colourful pictures of some of the stars of *Baywatch*, dominated by Pamela Anderson in a red swimsuit. Even in a marginal constituency like Grimsby, there should surely be limits to the lengths to which intending parliamentary candidates should go to catch the voter's eye?

Sporting bums, so to speak, and alluding to bums, Mitchell's real concern was to please the electors of Grimsby. MPs of all parties are the worst people to shape the forthcoming

and she could not understand his bitterness. But sketchwriters with long memories understand. We remember an incandescent Sir Norman, last year, when a Tory colleague, Michael Jopling (Westmorland and Lonsdale), recommending Greenwich for the exhibition, told MPs that for most people in Britain Birmingham was just a place you went through on the way to London. Sir Norman nearly exploded. He will never now be reconciled to Greenwich. Mr Mitchell will not be reconciled to Greenwich, either, but probably has doubts

about Birmingham. Sir Norman is as opposed to *Grimsby* as he is to Greenwich. Scottish MPs are sceptical of any English location, and English MPs scathing about Scotland. Nobody supports Wales, except the Welsh. The London MP, Toby Jessel (C, Twickenham) supports Greenwich. Recently, Mr Jessel has been developing quite a line in startling arguments which nobody had thought of before, clinching the debate. Last week, he disposed of the Royal Yacht controversy after a back-of-the-envelope calculation that it would cost us all less than £1

each, and £1 was really very cheap for a large yacht. Yesterday, he confounded us with an unanswerable case for celebrating millennia in style: people were, he said, "absolutely astonished and utterly amazed" at opposition to the plans, because "you only get a millennium once in a thousand years". There was a stunned silence. MPs had not thought of this. It was all so obvious! This was our last millennium until the next one! Opposition to the cost just fell away. Knocked himself by the knockdown simplicity of his argument, Mr Jessel sat down.

Dust leak affects 6 at Sellafield

Six workers at the Sellafield nuclear waste reprocessing site were contaminated after a leak of radioactive dust. They got the dust on their skin while dismantling equipment in the Magnon plant. Staff were evacuated when the release was detected soon after 9pm on Sunday. BNFL said the workers suffered "minor personal contamination" and had received decontamination treatment. No radioactivity was released outside the plant. The affected staff and have been suspended from working in radioactive areas.

Schools to close

Two primary schools in south London have become the first in England to face closure after being judged as failing. Parents are being consulted about the transfer of children to nearby schools. Caldecot School, Camberwell, is to close next year, and Sandey School, Brixton, in the summer.

Murder clues

South African police said that they have uncovered "strong leads" in their search for the killers of Stuart Gaskell, a Briton who emigrated to South Africa with his wife last year. Mr Gaskell, 26, was shot twice in the head on Friday in Cape Town, just as his wife was preparing to tell him he was to be a father.

£855 m BSE cost

The BSE crisis cost the Government £855 million between April 1 and December 31 last year, Angela Browning, the Junior Agriculture Minister, disclosed last night. She said in a Commons written reply that compensation to farmers amounted to £553.3 million, with £161.8 million for abattoirs.

Test traps rapist

A rapist who sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl was jailed for 10 years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Paul Matthews, 20, of Redhill, Surrey, did not let the girl, who lived locally, see his face, but he was trapped by a genetic fingerprinting test. He was found guilty of rape and two charges of indecent assault.

Inquiry backed

Relatives of the 13 unarmed men shot dead by paratroopers on Bloody Sunday in Londonderry 25 years ago won support from Sir Nicholas Scott, the former Northern Ireland Minister, when he backed calls for a new inquiry. He said the 1972 inquiry by Lord Widgery was unsatisfactory.

Informant help

Underworld informants helped police to seize £20 million worth of drugs and 100 guns last year, Scotland Yard reported. The use of "grasses" to penetrate London's gangland was revealed as the Yard faced criticism over its methods of getting information on the Jamaican-based Yardies.

Eviction call

A group of women in Stirling have organised a petition which they claim has more than 2,500 signatures calling on Stirling council to remove Alan Christie, 50, a convicted child molester, from bed and breakfast accommodation at a hostel in the town and to relocate him out of the district.

Labour denies policy switch on single currency

By JILL SHERRMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday sought to play down any suggestion that it had softened its position on a single European currency after Robin Cook's admission that a Labour government might join in 2002. Leadership sources denied that the Shadow Foreign Secretary had signalled any policy change, and insisted that he was not advocating that Labour should definitely join in 2002. The party still had its options open and the people would decide through a referendum, they insisted. However, during the past few months Labour has appeared to shift its position to present a more Eurosceptic stance over monetary union after opinion polls reflected growing antipathy to the euro. Last October senior party sources started speculating that a Labour government might not enter the first wave of a single currency. The next month the party announced that it would hold a referendum on a single currency. The Tories, in danger of being outflanked, then agreed that it was "very unlikely" that a Conservative government would sign up to a first wave of European monetary union. Yesterday Mr Cook also suggested that it was unlikely that a Labour government would sign up to a single currency in 1999. But he did suggest that Britain might enter EMU at a later date, if it had proved a success and was stable. "I think it would take a

very sober and serious calculation to stay out beyond 2002," he said. The Eurosceptic Mr Cook was said to have been horrified that his comments were interpreted to mean that Labour would sign up to a single currency in five years' time. Party sources said that he had reiterated the line that he had given in interviews last November, which had widely been interpreted as Eurosceptical. But the new rhetoric conceals a growing awareness that taking a too-Eurosceptic approach could jeopardise the business vote and deter wavering Liberal Democrats and pro-European Tory voters. Tony Blair and his colleagues have been assiduous in courting big and small businesses during the past few weeks and Mr Cook will make a keynote speech on business and Europe on Wednesday. The remarks by the head of Toyota last week that Britain could lose inward investment if it refused to join a single currency were supposedly a warning shot to the Tories. But Labour is aware that if it rules out a single currency either in the short or medium term, it risks losing the business vote. It has already attracted "If on the other hand we keep the option open, and the Tories close it, we could bring them all over to our side," one source said. Labour strategists point out that most businessmen are

wary of being left behind if other European countries go ahead with EMU in 1999. Party sources also argue that although polls have shown that the public are generally against Britain entering a single currency, their opinion changes dramatically if they are asked "Should Britain join if it proves to be a success?" Private polling has also shown that the public fears being left behind in Europe. "We have to handle both perceptions — either that Europe will subsume us or that we will be left behind," one strategist said. It is believed that Mr Blair, Gordon Brown, a pro-European, and Mr Cook have had a number of meetings during the past few weeks to try to devise a middle way that will also appease pro-Europeans in the party. The Labour leadership intends to contrast the "opportunistic" rhetoric adopted by the Tories with a more realistic approach, based on economic assessment alone. It will point to the economic obstacles that have to be cleared before going into a single currency, but it will also outline the dangers — high interest rates, lack of stability and growing unemployment — if others go ahead with a successful euro and Britain is left behind. Peter Riddell, page 11 Robin Cook, page 18 Leading article, page 19



John Major with Alain Juppé, his French counterpart, during his one-day official visit to Britain yesterday

Rifkind rallies Swedes to defend nation state against integrationists

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MALCOLM RIFKIND yesterday challenged Germany, France and others pressing for more European integration to explain their ultimate objective. Otherwise, the Foreign Secretary said, the people of Europe would remain concerned about the future of their national institutions and values. Speaking in Stockholm at the start of a tour to drum up support for Britain's stance in Europe, Mr Rifkind accused some EU members of trying to build a European superstate. They see, the nation state as obsolete. They want to do away with the notion of co-operation between sovereign governments. They

want a continuous process of further integration. He told the Swedish Institute for International Affairs that many in Britain feared the inevitable result would be a "federal superstate". Nation states would have no more control over the lives of their citizens than parish councils did. He urged leaders calling for faster integration — whom he did not name — to answer the central questions: what was their ultimate destination? How much political and economic integration were they aiming for? Mr Rifkind said Britain's vision for Europe was not one of rolling integration, towards a single federal destiny. "It is about finding the right balance between supranationalism and inter-governmentalism: using supranationalism where it is necessary, but only where it is necessary."

He added: "Britain's vision is not anti-European. We believe that closer co-operation in Europe is in all our interests. But it must be done in a way which reflects the reality of what our citizens feel comfortable with. He called on the Swedish people to support Britain's call for a Europe that represented all the Continent, not just the wealthy Western half, that was flexible in meeting global market challenges and that worked effectively with Nato. The Swedes are at least as hostile to EU integration as Britain. Later, in remarks to reporters, he explicitly challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France to explain their goal in Europe.

Faithful rally to save Sir George

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE bitter Tory divisions in Reigate reopened last night when supporters of Sir George Gardiner demanded a fresh meeting to reinstate the ousted MP as their prospective parliamentary candidate. Senior local officials gave a warning that the move could mean that the Tories will go into a general election without having picked a candidate for the Surrey seat. More than 50 party members have signed a letter, delivered yesterday, calling for a meeting at which last week's decision to deselect Sir George could be overturned. The meeting has to be held if a certain number of members put their name to it. Sir George's supporters

want the meeting to debate and vote on a motion that the association "expresses its continued confidence in Sir George Gardiner as MP for Reigate and declares that the decisions reached at the special general meeting on January 30 are invalid". Sir George was deselected last Thursday by 272 votes to 213 after his local members lost patience with his criticism of John Major. He is threatening to take legal action. Senior party officials on Reigate Tories' executive council met last night to discuss the new demand and whether it would prevent them beginning the process of selecting a new candidate to replace Sir George.

Whitehall mandarins face work in private sector

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

SENIOR mandarins in Whitehall in future will have to serve time with a private company. But the catch for officials filling the top 500 posts in government is that they will have to work for a private company on Whitehall rates of pay. The move has been approved by Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, to speed up the interchange between companies and government departments. Such exchanges have been tried before, but the number of staff moving in and out of government has remained at 400 in five years. Mr Heseltine asked business

men for advice, and yesterday a report from a group chaired by Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of private health firm Bupa, recommended much longer targets for the Government. Sir Bryan believes government problems could more readily be solved with a fresh eye from outside. "The Lord Chancellor's department, for example, has never had a private sector seconded. Yet we think it could benefit. The courts system has a terrible problem with listing that is not dissimilar from queuing."

He also thought the Department of Social Security might learn from companies in customer services. Sir Robin — from Harrow, Oxford, via the Treasury, a secondment to the Bank of England to Cabinet Secretary — yesterday welcomed the move. He pointed out that eight permanent secretaries were already recruited from the private sector — for example, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills QC. Mr Heseltine emphasised the need for a two-way exchange with the private sector. He suggested civil servants might learn to be more numerate and take faster decisions, while outsiders in Whitehall would learn about strategic appraisal, longer-term judgments and a more analytical approach.

Scotland's Tories deny breakaway

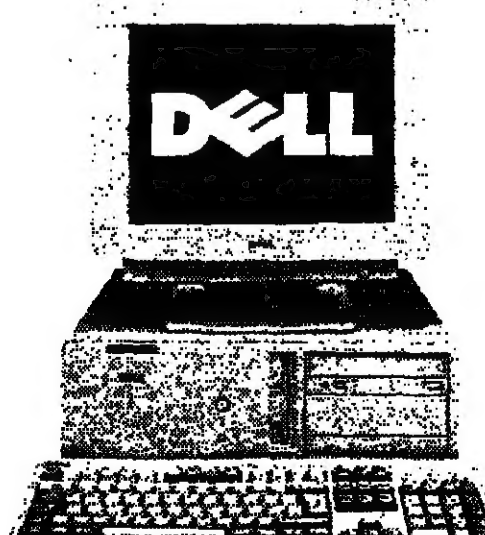
By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Scottish Tories yesterday dismissed reports that a breakaway party would be set up north of the border if Labour wins the general election and creates a devolved parliament. It was claimed that the rebel party, being considered by some Tory activists in defiance of the party high command, would involve the party being renamed the Scottish Unionist Party to enable the development of a distinct and alternative Scottish agenda. Tory candidates would stand under that banner in Scottish Parliament elections, according to yesterday's *Scotsman*. However, the newspaper report was dismissed as preposterous by Sir Michael Hirst, the Scottish Tory party's chairman. Despite the denials, some Tory activists said that the party might have to review its operation if it lost heavily at the general election, and failed to win the the devolution campaign. The *Scotsman* said discussions were so advanced that financing of up to £3 million a year had been put forward. George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, said: "The sensible wing of the Scottish Tory party has now accepted that devolution is inevitable and that they must prepare for it. "While John Major will be fighting the coming election on a fiercely anti-devolution platform the Scottish Conservative Party has effectively thrown in the towel."

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'Road rage taken to its extreme'

Driver shot men in head after he hit car, court told

BY ADAM FRESCO

A MOTORIST saw his two friends shot in the head at close range by another driver after a minor accident in a case of "road rage taken to its extreme", a court was told yesterday. He then had to run for his life as the gunman chased him.

Benjamin Worae, 34, from Ghana, whose fiancée was expecting their third child, was hit twice and died instantly. Kwame Davies, also 34, a political refugee, had his jaw fractured.

Francis Sarkodie, 35, told the jury that he ran for his life after watching Lee Gardiner, 25, a small-time car dealer and self-professed gangster, pull out a gun and shoot his friends.

The attack took place after a turbo-charged Renault 5, allegedly driven by Mr Gardiner, hit Mr Sarkodie's car while trying to overtake him on the inside, and then drove across him to try to make him stop, Southwark Crown Court was told. Mr Sarkodie, from Palmers Green, north London, said: "I felt a slight impact and the driver, who was white, drove across my path and then back again as if he wanted me to stop. He wound down his window and waved a long stick. I was afraid... and decided to drive on."

He drove as fast as he could as Mr Worae and Mr Davies gave him directions to another friend's house in Finsbury Park, north London, the court was told. Once there he parked and they got out. At

first there was no sign of the pursuing motorist, but as they stood on the pavement they suddenly saw him running towards them shouting and waving the stick.

Mr Sarkodie, a clothing firm worker who is also seeking political asylum, said through an interpreter: "As soon as I parked the car I saw the white man again running towards us, still holding the stick. He was shouting and screaming, saying, 'You have to pay me, you have to pay me.' He seemed very angry."

"Benjamin said, 'Why should we pay you? Then I saw him pull something from his trousers. It looked like a gun. Then he shot them. He was about three feet away from Kwame when he fired. Then he shot Benjamin, more than once."

Mr Sarkodie added: "After shooting them I saw him turn towards me and point the gun at me, so I ran. He started following me and I ran into some trees. I was very shocked by what had happened and didn't know where to go. I was screaming for someone to call the police."

Fortunately, his pursuer gave up the chase as soon as he reached the safety of nearby trees, he said. When he turned round, the killer had gone.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said that the case was a dramatic example of how a total loss of self-control by a driver could cause him to behave in an uninhibited and,

in this case, murderous way. "This is road rage taken to its extreme," he said.

He added: "It was as clear an intent to kill as one can imagine. The fact that the gunman seemed enraged and out of control, having lost both his head and his temper, is no excuse. It is no consolation to the victim that he may not have lost his life if the defendant had not lost his temper."

Immediately after the attack the jury was told that Mr Gardiner "puffed himself up" and witnesses heard him say: "Man, you don't know me. I'm a bad boy. I'm a gangster."

Several people saw the argument in the quiet cul-de-sac, and four people, including Mr Sarkodie, were able to pick out Mr Gardiner at an identity parade, it was said. When interviewed, Mr Gardiner was said to have told police that he had had nothing to do with the shootings, and also denied having a Renault car at the time. The Crown alleges that after the murder Mr Gardiner attempted to cover his tracks by dismantling the car in a friend's garden.

However, said Mr Bevan, two police officers, who knew Mr Gardiner, would be called to tell the court how they had seen him driving a similar car a couple of days before the incident. Mr Gardiner was also known to trade Renaults for profit, the jury was told.

Mr Gardiner, of Tottenham, north London, denies one count of murder and one of attempted murder last May 29. The trial continues.

Boy, 12, crashes on joyride and injures brother, 8

BY MICHAEL HORNSWELL

POLICE who rescued two joyriders from a blazing car after a night-time chase that ended in a crash found that the driver was a 12-year-old boy and the passenger his eight-year-old brother.

The younger boy was injured in the back and abdomen. Last night he was in a stable condition in the intensive care unit at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital as his parents waited at his bedside.

His elder brother, who escaped with cuts and shock, will be interviewed by police. Stephen is below the age of criminal responsibility.

The accident happened at 3.40am yesterday after the boys had sneaked out of their beds while their parents slept. Police said that they had taken the car after seeing it abandoned at the weekend near their home in Salford, Greater Manchester.

Two officers on patrol in a marked police transit van saw the car being driven erratically at a roundabout and switched on a flashing police light. When a chase ensued police noticed that the two occupants of the car were straining to see over the dashboard. The officers pursued the F-registered Cavalier, which crossed the central reservation of a carriageway and sped away in the wrong direction.

The driver lost control seven minutes later when he failed to

take a right turn at a T-junction. The car ploughed into the side of the disused Golden Gate pub, igniting almost immediately. The two officers leapt from their van, smashed the car windows and hauled the boys to safety before extinguishing the fire.

Their father said: "I don't know how they managed to start the car. They've never done anything like this before. Normally they are good lads who like to play football in the back garden with the other kids. The first I heard about it was when their mum came back from hospital today."

Chief Insp Stuart Nelson said: "They wouldn't have had any problem starting it up because the car had been barrelled, that is the barrel had been taken out, so it would have been easy enough to start with a sharp implement."

"We were following this vehicle according to force guidelines. The last thing we want to do is make a suspect do something rash - especially one so young as this. The two officers who rescued the boys will be up for some sort of commendation. This incident could have had tragic consequences."

The car had been stolen on Saturday and used in a burglary in Brentwick. Mr Nelson said: "The boys did not steal it initially. They just took it when it was left abandoned."

Conmen jailed for plotting 'miracle'

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

TWO men who swindled a congregation out of hundreds of pounds by pretending one of them was disabled and wheelchair bound were jailed yesterday.

For seven months Paul Redhead, 29, and his "carer", Peter Callister, 24, pretended that Redhead was severely brain-damaged. Birmingham Crown Court was told. Mr Redhead faked a miracle cure at a church service and rose on both legs, apparently speaking in tongues, to convince the congregation that he had been visited by the Lord.

The pair devised the scheme after Redhead was lent a wheelchair while being treated for epilepsy. In August 1995 they started to attend Elm Pentecostal Church in Coventry, with Callister, sporting a carer's badge, wheeling Redhead into services.

A fundraising drive began, but the church's attempts to seek medical verification led to Redhead's downfall. He and Callister were arrested two days later when Callister told police that the miracle cure had been an attempt to call the trick to a halt.

Sentencing Redhead and Callister to 21 months and 15 months respectively for conspiracy to defraud, Judge Alan Taylor told them: "I think most right-thinking people knowing the full facts of this case would want to call you a couple of scoundrels."



Emma Bullimore faces an hour's walk to school over a five-lane road and fields

Girl, 11, fails in court attempt to save school bus

BY EMMA WILKINS AND JOHN O'LEARY

AN 11-year-old girl who faces an hour's walk to school when her school bus is abolished next month was told by a High Court judge yesterday to take her case to the Secretary of State for Education.

Emma Bullimore applied for a judicial review of Essex County Council's decision, taken last year, to abolish the service from her home in Rayne, to Nottley High School, Braintree. The council, which has run buses between Rayne and the school for 25 years, decided the children could walk because the distance is just under three miles.

Emma started at the school last September and her parents have been paying £48 a quarter for bus travel because the council, after inspecting the shortest route, ruled that free transport should no longer be available.

Mr Bullimore, 40, a company director, and his wife Mandy would not allow Emma - or her sisters Lisa, 10, and Clare, 8, who are due to go to the school - to walk the route.

Mr Bullimore, who has formed an action group with parents of 113 other affected children, said: "A lot of the other parents are on one income and many haven't even got cars. The council seems to think everyone will

be able to drive their children to school but a lot just can't."

The High Court rejected Emma's application on the grounds that Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, through her officials, was better qualified than the court to decide safety issues.

Mr Justice McCullough said: "This court has no means of judging questions of safety. There's no question of the court going to the road and having a look. The Secretary of State can do exactly that, through her officials."

Mr Bullimore said he would consider taking the case to the Appeal Court. Alan Davison, headteacher of Nottley High School, said: "The route from Rayne is extremely dangerous. I am very disappointed because I believe the decision to abolish the bus service is unfair. I think the council reached the decision purely on financial grounds without taking into account the safety aspect properly."

Local authorities have been tightening up on providing free school transport as safety measures have forced up costs at a time when education budgets are being squeezed. State school pupils are entitled to free transport if they live more than three miles along the most direct practicable route from school. However, some councils have become reluctant to pay for long journeys to selective or religious schools when there is a comprehensive close to home.



The Atlantic by oar, the Horn by paddle, the World by sail. All by Rolex.

On his twenty-first birthday John Ridgway's father gave him a Rolex. "My mother had a Rolex, so that's probably why," he says. At the time none of them could have guessed what trials it was to be put through.

First Ridgway rowed across the North Atlantic in an open boat. Next he trekked the length of the Amazon from source to sea. Then he went on to make the first crossing of the Gran Campo ice-cap in Patagonia.

Still not satisfied, he embarked on

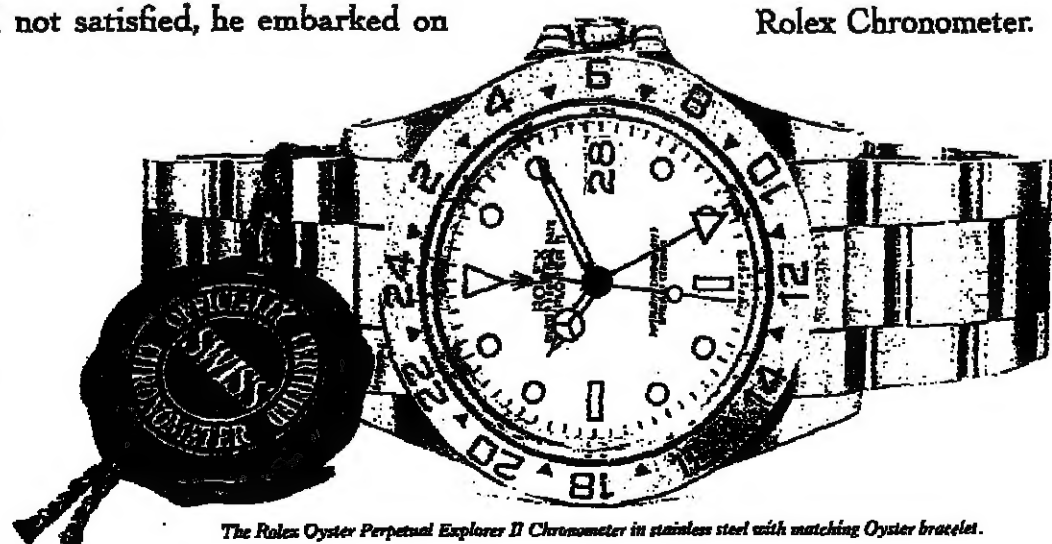
ture School near Cape Wrath in Scotland, where he passes his leadership skills on to the intrepid.

"Positive thinking is all-important, and direct physical challenges, such as surviving a storm, sharpen the mind remarkably," he observes. Then he adds, "The challenges of modern life can be rather more insidious."

Blizzards, hurricanes, icebergs, tropical storms; it seems John Ridgway shrugs off everything but his trusted and well-travelled

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Rail companies think big as commuters get fatter

BY JONATHAN FRANK, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL companies are having to provide bigger seats because passengers are getting fatter. The new generation of trains being ordered for the privatised railway will have wider seats to cater for the bulkier commuter of the 21st century. Increasing height will also require coaches with greater leg room.

LTS Rail, which is planning to order 44 commuter trains for its routes between London and south Essex at a cost of £125 million, has asked its design consultants Mott MacDonald to examine the impact of growing obesity and better nutrition on designs.

David Wilcock, LTS's com-

mercial director, said: "The new trains will have a life expectancy of 30 years and will carry many commuters who have not yet been born. We know that people are getting taller and heavier and bottoms are getting bigger."

"These are important factors to be taken into account when we look at the seat design and leg-room. Our aim is to make the new trains as comfortable as possible, so we need to look ahead."

Higher toilet bowls are also likely to be needed. British Rail traditionally designed train seats to fit 95 per cent of men and 85 per cent of women. Some of the trains being replaced date back to the late 1950s when

average heights were about three inches shorter than those expected in the 2020s.

The new trains are expected to come into service in 2000. The introduction of tilting train technology in coming years could cause further problems for well-padded passengers, as the sides of the trains are tapered towards the ceiling, reducing the amount of space available.

Two years ago airline cabin weight regulations had to be redrafted because passengers were getting heavier. The average assumed weight was increased from 115 lb for men and 105 lb for women to a unisex standard of 135 lb.

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*Source: The Research Department Ltd. All financial information is checked for accuracy on a weekly basis.



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Parents reluctantly accept £30,000 settlement

Girl died after doctors failed to diagnose cyst

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE parents of a teenage girl who died of an agonising death after five hospital doctors failed to diagnose an ovarian cyst have accepted an out-of-court settlement of about £30,000.

John and May McGalliard, whose 14-year-old daughter Lorraine died in Stobhill Hospital in September 1993, said they had reluctantly settled with Greater Glasgow Health Board because they did not have the funds to fight on. They said they had yet to receive an apology from the hospital.

Lorraine, from Kirkintilloch near Glasgow, was admitted three times to Stobhill Hospital in increasing pain over one week in September 1993. On two occasions she was sent home with painkillers.

A Fatal Accident Inquiry into her death was told that a series of doctors examined her but failed to read her notes, register symptoms of the cyst or carry out vital scans and internal examinations. They continued to treat her for urinary infections.

Lorraine died of multiple organ failure after an overwhelming infection when the cyst ruptured 70 minutes after an ultrasound scan was eventually carried out. There were allegations at the inquiry that the scan had been delayed.

During the inquiry five doctors, including two consultant surgeons, Mr Matthew Calvert and Mr Robert Dalling, and Dr Miriam Deeny, a registrar, had been warned and advised as to their future professional conduct. "Our object in bringing this case was to act as a warning to the medical profession and to help to prevent a similar tragedy in the future. No money in the world will replace Lorraine," he said. Mrs



Lorraine McGalliard died in great pain 70 minutes after a vital ultrasound scan was carried out.

who has three other daughters, said that "after a long struggle" he had received a letter from the GMC detailing the investigations and informing the family that three of the doctors, Mr Calvert, Dr Deeny and Dr Dominic Byrne, a registrar, had been warned and advised as to their future professional conduct. "Our object in bringing this case was to act as a warning to the medical profession and to help to prevent a similar tragedy in the future. No money in the world will replace Lorraine," he said. Mrs

McGalliard said: "It has been pure hell. Our grief is mixed with anger. This is not something that should happen in this day and age when you can send men to the moon and do heart and lung transplants. This was a young girl who had a cyst. The scanner was there and they didn't use it." Mr McGalliard alleged there had been a cover-up. "We've had to push to get the details. If we could take it further we would but we haven't got the money to go to court and we have been advised to settle. This has had a

terrible effect on our family. None of us trusts doctors now. When we think about Lorraine we have terrible memories of her last days in agony."

Lorraine first complained of pains in her side on Friday September 3, 1993. On the Sunday her GP prescribed antibiotics for a possible urinary infection. Three days later she was sent to Stobhill where she was examined and sent home.

The next day she was screaming in pain and her GP sent her back to the hospital. She told doctors the pain was so bad she wanted to die. By the following Friday her white blood cell count was "grossly high" but doctors failed to notice the report in her records.

She was sent home the next day but readmitted that night. A junior doctor, suspecting an ovarian cyst, ordered a scan for the next day. The scan was not carried out until two days later.

On September 13 Lorraine collapsed at 6.30am and was admitted to intensive care where she screamed "Daddy help me". An ultrasound was carried out at 11.35am and Lorraine died at 12.45pm.

A statement from Stobhill NHS Trust said: "Following this tragic incident the trust undertook a major review of its surgical services. A significant outcome was the introduction of the trust's acute surgical receiving ward. All emergency patients are cared for on admission in a specific identified area geared to the diagnosis and treatment required." The trust expressed its condolences to the family.

A spokeswoman for Greater Glasgow Health Board said: "Greater Glasgow Health Board has settled entirely without admission of liability and outstanding claim with the family."

Group to help the Falklands victims

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

HUNDREDS of Falklands War veterans who suffer from mental scars nearly 15 years after the conflict are to receive backing from a new organisation led by commanders from the 1982 battles.

The trauma of the war with Argentina — in which 255 British servicemen were killed and 777 wounded — had a lasting physical and psychological impact for many of the servicemen, most of whom are now civilians. Although there are many Service organisations and charity groups that take care of war veterans, senior commanders agreed at a special conference last week that extra help was now needed for those still suffering from the Falklands War.

The South Atlantic Medal Association 82 will be officially launched at the Falkland Islands government office in London on April 2, the fifteenth anniversary of the Argentine occupation. Among other services, it will advise veterans about the financial aid they can receive from other welfare organisations.

Dr Rick Jolly, a former Surgeon-Captain in the Royal Navy, who was in charge of the casualty clearing station at Ajax Bay throughout the conflict, is to be the chairman of the new organisation. He said: "There is a whole raft of people out there who were



Sara Jones: Falklands veterans value contact

changed by the Falklands War. "Many have left the services and have no one to talk to who has shared their experience. Some get the odd black day when they think about what they saw and about their friends who died."

"Of all the people who took part in the campaign, fewer than 500 have severe mental problems but many of the others sometimes have nightmares or bad spells when they remember their friends."

Denzil Connick, a former NCO from the Parachute Regiment who lost a leg in the battle of Mount Longdon and is the driving force behind the organisation, said: "Every holder of the South Atlantic Medal irrespective of rank or unit is welcome. We are holding out the hand of friendship and comradeship."

There will also be a special membership category for the relatives of those who were killed. Sara Jones, widow of Lieutenant Colonel H Jones VC, who died in the war, said: "The families value the contact with people who were there and they can reminisce."

Working mothers' children 'do not get worse results'

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

RESEARCH broadcast on television last night purporting to show that teenagers with working mothers suffer at GCSE has been criticised by academics claiming that their studies demonstrate the opposite.

A team from North London University, whose research formed the basis of BBC's *Panorama* programme, found that pupils were twice as likely to leave school without qualifications if their mothers worked full-time. A two-year project under Professor Margaret O'Brien looked at 600 families in Barking and Dagenham, east London.

The results met with astonishment from other researchers yesterday. A review of eight international studies reported last week at University College London had found that young children acquired lasting benefits from day care, while a leading researcher in the field said she had found no ill-effects among the children of working mothers in three studies over nearly a decade.

Professor O'Brien declined to defend her research yesterday. But she said on *Panorama* that parents should balance their own needs with those of their children. The project had shown that mothers who worked part-time were more likely to be available in the early evening to discuss school and homework. Other academics said the

project could not demonstrate a single cause of academic failure, and questioned whether results from a predominantly working-class area were applicable nationally. Dr Ian Roberts, director of the Child Health Monitoring Unit at London University's Institute of Child Health, who carried out last week's review, said: "There seems to be a lot of working-mum bashing at the moment and I don't think it's really based on scientific evidence, which is a pity."

Professor Miriam David, of South Bank University, who has completed three studies on parental involvement, said working mothers were equally keen to help their children. "For daughters, in particular, there is plenty of evidence that working mothers raise educational aspirations. I would be very sceptical about these results, as they have been reported."

The eight projects reviewed by Dr Roberts focused on the impact of day care on young children. All eight showed that IQ was increased and children were less likely to fail at school. "There's great potential for mix-ups here," he said. "Money might be the issue and not going out to work."

Recent American studies tend to support the conclusions of the North London team.

Libby Purves, page 18

Major promises stylish World Cup in battle to outbid Germans

By John Goodbody

JOHN MAJOR publicly supported England's bid for the 2006 World Cup yesterday as the row escalated over the backing of Germany's candidature by Uefa, football's governing body in Europe.

The Prime Minister, who met Football Association officials to discuss the campaign, said that this country could host the event for the first time since 1966 "with skill and style".

He promised the Government's full backing for the tournament. Mr Major also assigned John Spratt, the Minister for Sport, to work alongside FA officials as they begin lobbying officials of Fifa, the world governing body, who will make the decision in 2000. Referring to the semi-final

of Euro 96, the Prime Minister said: "The last time we played Germany, we lost on penalties. It was an extremely good game. We were very unlucky to lose. Whether we will lose as far as 2006 is concerned is a long way away."

At a separate meeting in

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Hope for England — page 52

London, the bid received backing from the football associations of the other three home countries. David Collins, the Welsh FA secretary, said: "The benefit to British football as a whole in staging the World Cup would be huge."

All expressed surprise that Uefa had sent a fax on Friday telling the FA that the Euro-

pean governing body had already decided to back Germany, which had announced its candidature in 1993. No one had seen minutes of any meeting that had made the decision.

David Davies, the FA spokesman, said: "All we have asked is that our bid is considered fairly and squarely against other bids. We ask for fairness, we ask for democracy. We do not believe that democracy is an optional extra."

Uefa officials will be flying to England later this week to try to defuse the dispute. Uefa made a record profit of more than £60 million when the FA staged Euro 96.

Although Germany and England are the only two countries to have announced their bids, Fifa may decide to

give the tournament to another continent. France will stage the 1998 competition and Japan and South Korea will co-host 2002. South America has not held the World Cup since 1986 and Africa has never been chosen.

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Beryl Reid leaves actor her cats — complete with cottage

BY ADAM FRESCO
AND DAREN GREGORIAN

THE actress Beryl Reid has left her cottage on the banks of the Thames to an actor — with a request that he looks after her six cats.

Miss Reid, 76, also left Paul Strike, 48, most of the contents of the cottage and £2,000. Mr Strike, who has a non-speaking role in the BBC television hospital drama *Casualty*, is now dividing his time between Honeycot Cottage in Wraybury, Berkshire, and his home at Clifton, Bristol. He said yesterday: "We were very good friends and I suppose I thought of her as a favourite aunt."

At one time Miss Reid had 13 cats. Some were named after friends and colleagues; one of those that has since died was called after the comedian Ronnie Corbett. The pets were often mentioned in her memoirs, a volume of which she called *The Cat's Whiskers*.

Mr Strike met Miss Reid about 20 years ago when he helped her with her lines for a play because she was dyslexic. He said: "She had discussed leaving me the cottage and



Feline des res: the £200,000 thatched and turreted cottage by the Thames at Wraybury, Berkshire

asked if I would also look after her cats. It was a request and had nothing to do with whether she left me the place or not. It is something I am more than happy to do. My cat died recently so I have brought one of them, Coco, to live with me. I arranged for her to get one of her cats from a Chinese restaurant because she didn't think it was happy there. The others were strays that had been neglected or had been thrown out on the street and

ended up with the RSPCA or other animal centres. I am at the cottage most of the time, but if I can't get there then Beryl's housekeeper will take care of them."

The cats had their own personalities, he said. There was Eileen, who still liked to wash her son Hamish, even though he was old enough to look after himself; ginger Parris and his brother Tuffnut; Boon, who was adventurous and liked climbing trees; and

Coco, who preferred to stay indoors.

The 1930s cottage consists of three semi-circular sections. "It is a totally unique cottage," Mr Strike said. "The sections, which are connected inside, are all individually thatched and look like turrets." An estate agent said that he would expect the cottage, which has two bedrooms, dining room, sitting room and kitchen, to fetch about £200,000.

The actress, who died last October after a career spanning 50 years, left an estate valued at £420,219. She is best remembered for her role in the play *The Killing of Sister George*, staged in London in 1965, moving to New York the following year — where she won a Tony award — and filmed in 1969. She was awarded an OBE in 1986.

Other films in which Miss Reid appeared included *The Belles of St Trinian's* and *Entertaining Mr Sloane*. She won a Balsa best actress award in 1983 for her role in the television spy drama *Smiley's People* and received a lifetime achievement award in the British Comedy Awards of 1991.



Miss Reid in 1961 with two of her earlier cats, Freddy and Footie. At one time she had 13, several named after colleagues. Six of the pets remain to be cared for

Eccentric bachelor leaves £2 million

BY ADRIAN LEE

AN ECCENTRIC who lived in a dilapidated cottage without central heating or television has left £2 million in his will.

Ron Hassard, a 6ft 7in bachelor, inherited his wealth from his father, invested it wisely but chose to live modestly. His only luxury was the occasional holiday abroad. One villager in Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, said: "We were amazed. He was a nice old boy but he lived like a hermit. The house was falling down around him."

Mr Hassard died last year, aged 76, in a house fire after falling asleep while smoking a cigarette. Two of his friends, Nigel Matthews, 28, a part-time fireman who tried to save Mr Hassard's life, and Anthony Beard, of Stipston on Stour, Warwickshire, shared £1 million. Mr Beard, 64, a retired bookmaker who was a friend for 40 years, said: "He was a very kind man. I just wish he had taken better care of himself."

Woman, 79, with heart disease is jailed

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A 76-YEAR-OLD grandmother suffering from heart disease and bronchitis was jailed for nine months yesterday for her part in handling stolen goods.

Judge Hutton told Ivy Williams, at Gloucester Crown Court: "There are places where the elderly and infirm can be looked after in prison."

Mrs Williams' lawyers said they would be lodging an appeal against the sentence. After a trial last year, Williams, of Bristol, had been convicted of eight charges of handling stolen jewellery and other valuables. Her two sons — one of whom has schizophrenia — and their former girlfriends were all jailed for their parts in the offences at an earlier hearing, which Mrs Williams was too ill to attend.

Patrick Harrington, QC, for the defence, yesterday submitted that, at her age, Williams should be spared jail. He said her only previous criminal conviction had been, eight years ago, when she was fined £250 for handling stolen building society savings stamps, and that this time all she had done was "sweep up relative trifles which came her way to a value of no more than £200".

He urged the court to fine her. The judge said the previous sentence should have been a warning to her not to re-offend: "These offences are so serious that only a custodial sentence can be justified."

Monday misery is seen in a new light

BY NIGEL HAWKES

TEENAGERS who enjoy a weekend lie-in are likely to wake up in a foul mood on Monday morning. Far from being refreshed by staying in bed, their body clocks are thrown so far out of synchronisation with the actual time that Monday morning will seem more like the middle of the night.

Winter makes the problem worse because of a lack of morning sunlight, Dr Mike Jones, of Sussex University, says. The short and dark days of winter allow less contact with daylight, which plays a big part in keeping internal clocks in time. Working by a sunny window rather than in windowless cells can help, he says.

One theory about the condition is that it is a type of hibernation in response to the shortage of daylight we eat more and do less. Dr Jones believes, however, that the problem arises from a progressive slippage between our internal clocks and the actual time.

"Human clocks tend to run slow, with a period slightly longer than 24 hours," he writes in the university's *Bulletin*. So, without suitable time cues to reset them, they get later and later each day.

"If they stay in bed on Saturday morning and then stay up late that night they get up even later on Sunday. By Monday morning they are really food because their internal body clock is around three hours later. They feel they are being woken up in the middle of the night."

Bright light is the answer, Dr Jones says, and the best time to administer it is first thing in the morning. Throwing back the curtains may not be popular, but it is effective. "This is because our clocks need to be advanced by morning signals. Light is the most important of these, but general arousal, exercise, music, interpersonal relations, all can play a part."

Corrections

□ Branch Energy has not signed contracts with mercenaries in Zaire, contrary to a report of January 14, and will not do so. The company is not involved in Zaire at present, but hopes to develop its activities there soon.

□ A report on February 1 wrongly described Viscount Exmouth as a Conservative peer; he is in fact a crossbencher, and we apologise for the error.

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Secret courage of doctor who defied Colditz Nazis

By Bill Frost

A REMARKABLE story of wartime courage kept secret for half a century has been revealed with the death of a reluctant hero imprisoned in Colditz by the Nazis.

Birendra Nath Mazumdar never spoke of his exploits to friends or neighbours in the Devon village of Galmpton where he retired. Only his immediate family knew that he had defied the Gestapo, withstood torture and outwitted the captors who threatened to shoot him if he refused to collaborate.

Dr Mazumdar's war might have remained secret forever if he had not agreed to tell Imperial War Museum researchers of his escape attempts from Colditz and his "home run". His only proviso was that the story should not be revealed until his death.

He told them too how he had been accused by fellow Allied officers of being a spy; how he had survived beatings, solitary confinement and the threat of execution.

Dr Mazumdar, who died aged 82 in December, came to Britain from his native India

in 1937 to study medicine at Cambridge. When war broke out he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was posted to France.

Encircled by German tanks while leading a convoy of ambulances, he had no alternative but to surrender, walking towards the Panzers with a white handkerchief tied to his baton. Over the next four years he was moved from camp to camp after complaining bitterly about the inadequacy of equipment and medicines with which to treat sick prisoners.

Captain Mazumdar's defiance infuriated his captors. He was beaten, placed in solitary confinement and finally sent to Colditz. There, the Gestapo tried to "persuade" him to join the Free India movement, led by Subhas Bose, who had persuaded many Indians to fight for independence by helping Hitler to topple the Raj.

His widow Joan recalled what her late husband had told her of his time as a POW. "The Germans were desperate to get him to join the move-



Dr Mazumdar: kept silent about bravery

ment and to broadcast propaganda to India. He was offered all sorts of inducements: money, women, a flat and wonderful life. He refused. "It was at time that the rumours began among the other men. He was tipped off by a Dutch officer that some

fellow prisoners thought he had been placed among them as a spy.

"One officer in particular made the accusation. My husband was so furious he would have half killed him if he hadn't been dragged away."

Realising that escape from Colditz would be "difficult", Captain Mazumdar went on hunger strike. "Fellow officers at Colditz said he stood no chance of escape because of the colour of his skin — he would have been a little obtrusive. So he had to find another way out of the castle," said his widow.

According to plan, he was moved to another camp where security was less daunting. He escaped, only to be recaptured tantalisingly close to the Spanish border.

Other attempts were to follow — all punished with solitary confinement — before his home run: to Switzerland, internment and eventual repatriation. "In all his four escape attempts he covered about 3,000 miles," said Mrs Mazumdar.

"He was a very strong man who lived by a code of duty, loyalty, morality and sincerity.



Captain Mazumdar, circled, with fellow prisoners in Colditz. He endured death threats and spy accusations

His inner strength enabled him to endure solitary confinement, beatings and racial prejudice — sometimes from brother officers. But it was only with the greatest reluctance that he spoke of these experiences. "After the war he

refused to attend POW reunions and had only recently joined the Colditz Association. "He had no time for Airey Neave who wrote a book about his escape," revealed his widow. "And although he thought Douglas Bader was

very brave, he didn't like him as a man. "It was the Colditz Association that alerted the Imperial War Museum to his extraordinary story. Mrs Mazumdar has also had an approach from Leeds University, which

wants her husband's memoirs for their war archives. "I have them all, both in writing and on tape. I haven't played the recordings back yet," she said. "I think it might make me weep. I miss him so."

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Earth at risk of collision with unseen comets

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THOUSANDS of invisible comets may be hurtling into the solar system on a potential collision course with Earth, scientists said yesterday.

But spotting the comets — called "dead" comets because they are inactive and pitch black — is "like looking for a black cat in a coal cellar", according to one expert.

The findings will increase concern among some scientists that mankind is at risk from a devastating impact of the kind that caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. Asteroids had previously been thought to pose the greatest danger of extraterrestrial devastation: craters on the Earth's surface bear testimony to bombardments from space from objects about a kilometre across.

The new research indicates that the danger from dead comets which, like Halley's Comet, are formed in a place called the Oort Cloud on the edge of the solar system, may be as big, if not bigger, than that posed by asteroids.

Only about 20 comets, such as Halley's, have previously been detected but new research indicates that between 1,000 and 4,800, up to six miles across, may be heading this way unseen. Many are likely to have orbits that bring them through the solar system every 200 years, which means that 50 a year could be passing by on paths that may take them near to Earth.

The research, to be released later this month at the Fermor Memorial Meeting of the Geological Society in London and at a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society in March, has been undertaken by Professor Mark Bailey of the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland and Professor Vacheslav Emel'-Yanenko, an astronomer from Chelyabinsk in the Russian Federation.

Professor Bailey said yesterday: "We are aware of around 20 comets like Halley's. For

every one we see, there may be at least 100 times as many in similar orbit that we do not see."

"This may be a conservative figure. Our calculations indicate that there may be between 1,000 and 5,000 that we have yet to see."

The findings are based on studies into the rate at which comets are entering the solar system from the Oort Cloud. Professor Bailey said they estimated that about one new comet arrived every year. Most of these are ejected into interstellar space but the scientists estimate that about 1 per cent, are "trapped" into short-period orbits that take them around the Sun every 200 years or so. The researchers believe they survive for half a million years, leaving up to 5,000 in orbit.

Professor Bailey said that comets such as Halley's were visible because they had volatile gases and streams of jets firing into a tail. Dead comets were inert.

It is also possible that dead comets, technically known as cometary asteroids, may disintegrate far faster than the team supposes. This would mean that many may now be little more than pencil-thin streams of meteoroids which would be hard to detect but which could cause no harm to the Earth.

Several astronomers have called on governments to set up networks of telescopes to give an early warning of approaching asteroids, large chunks of celestial debris formed in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

The belt is considered to be a graveyard of rubble from a planet that failed to form, with asteroids ejected from time to time. Several hundred have been detected.

Professor Bailey said that it may now be necessary to supplement such a system with infra-red telescopes covering the whole sky to seek out the dead comets.

THE BROADCASTING COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Complaint from Messrs D & F Barclay and from Mr C Garside - summary of adjudication

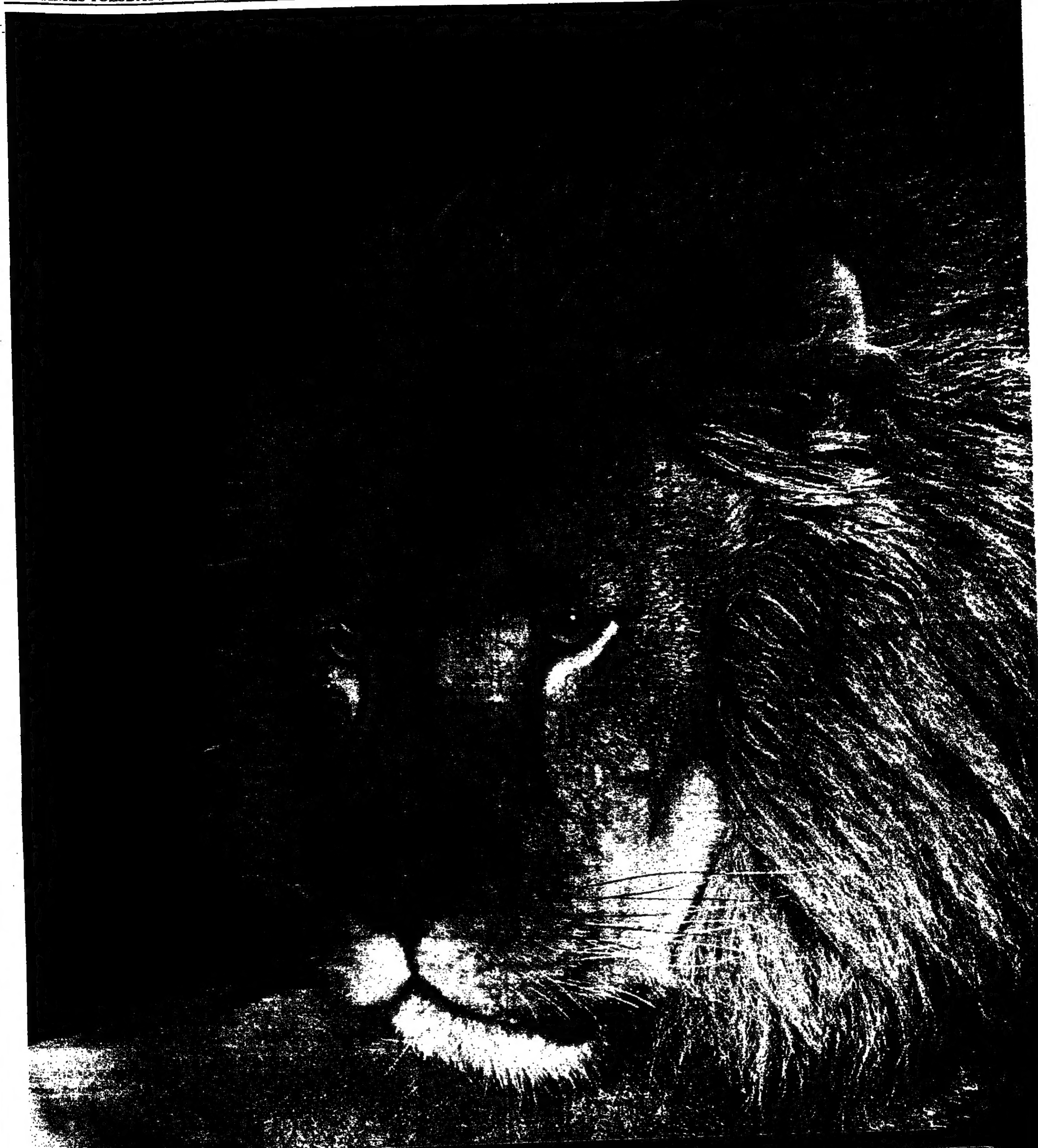
The Broadcasting Complaints Commission have upheld a complaint from Messrs D & F Barclay about an unwarranted infringement of their privacy in the making and subsequent broadcasting of an edition of *The Spin* transmitted by BBC2 on 4 October 1995. They have also partly upheld an associated complaint about the same programme, made by Mr C Garside, Editor of *The European* newspaper, which is owned by the Barclays.

In making the programme the BBC's journalist John Sweeney landed on the Barclays' private island of Brecqhou after the BBC's producer had been told by Mr Garside that the Barclays had declined to be interviewed and that they had refused permission for the programme-makers to visit the island. In noting the BBC's submissions seeking to justify their landing on the island as in the public interest, the Commission were not persuaded that their case rested on more than a wish to provide an entertaining programme for a curious public. In the Commission's view there were no allegations made against the Barclays about which the BBC could realistically have expected to find out more by a visit to Brecqhou.

The Commission found in relation to Mr Garside, that he could reasonably have been expected to be questioned about the Barclays in an interview about *The European*, particularly as this took place after the BBC's landing on Brecqhou. However, they considered that the way in which extracts from his interview were edited might well have left an unfair impression of evasiveness. They also found that, in fairness, his assurance that the Barclays did not interfere with his editorship of *The European* should have been included.

You can get a copy of the full adjudication by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Broadcasting Complaints Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.

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Stone Age teenagers cut their teeth on smoky chewing gum

By NORMAN HAMMOND AND NIGEL HAWKES

STONE Age teenagers developed a 5,000-year-long taste for a smoky-flavoured chewing gum made from birch bark, research has shown.

Youngsters chewed a black tar which doubled as a glue and may have helped remove loose milk teeth.

Elizabeth Aveling, a doctoral student at Bradford, who reconstituted the early gum from its original ingredients, says that the taste is neither pleasant nor entirely unpleasant. "It's a strange, smoky flavour. The texture is very like modern chewing gum, but it isn't sweet. Who knows what appealed to the Mesolithic palate?"

Samples of the ancient gum have been found in Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Norway. Some have the impression of teeth, which show that the majority of users were aged between six and 15. But one 30-something left the mark of a tooth with a cavity in it, suggesting that perhaps the gum had pain-killing properties and was being used to stave off toothache.

"Tar-like materials were commonly chewed throughout northern Europe from at least the Early Mesolithic period," Ms Aveling writes in *British Archaeology*. "Birch bark tar contains compounds that could serve as disinfectants, and these might be slowly

Archaeologists have found traces of one of Britain's earliest windmills. The mill for grinding flour at Boreham, near Chelmsford, Essex, would have existed about 1200. A large round pit was uncovered from which material would have been used to build the mound. Fragments of lava from northern Germany that were also found would have been used to make millstones.

released during chewing. There are historical records referring to its use to relieve sore throats."

No evidence that birch bark tar was chewed in Britain has ever been found, though cakes of it have been found at Star Carr, near Scarborough in North Yorkshire. Other uses included waterproofing and sticking axe blades to their hafts.

How Stone Age man made the tar remains a puzzle. The bark must be heated to at least 80C, a difficult task without vessels that can be sealed, which did not appear until much later. Attempts to reproduce the process by placing the bark on hot stones in a pit have failed, says Ms Aveling. It would have been much easier simply to chew pine resin, which was readily avail-

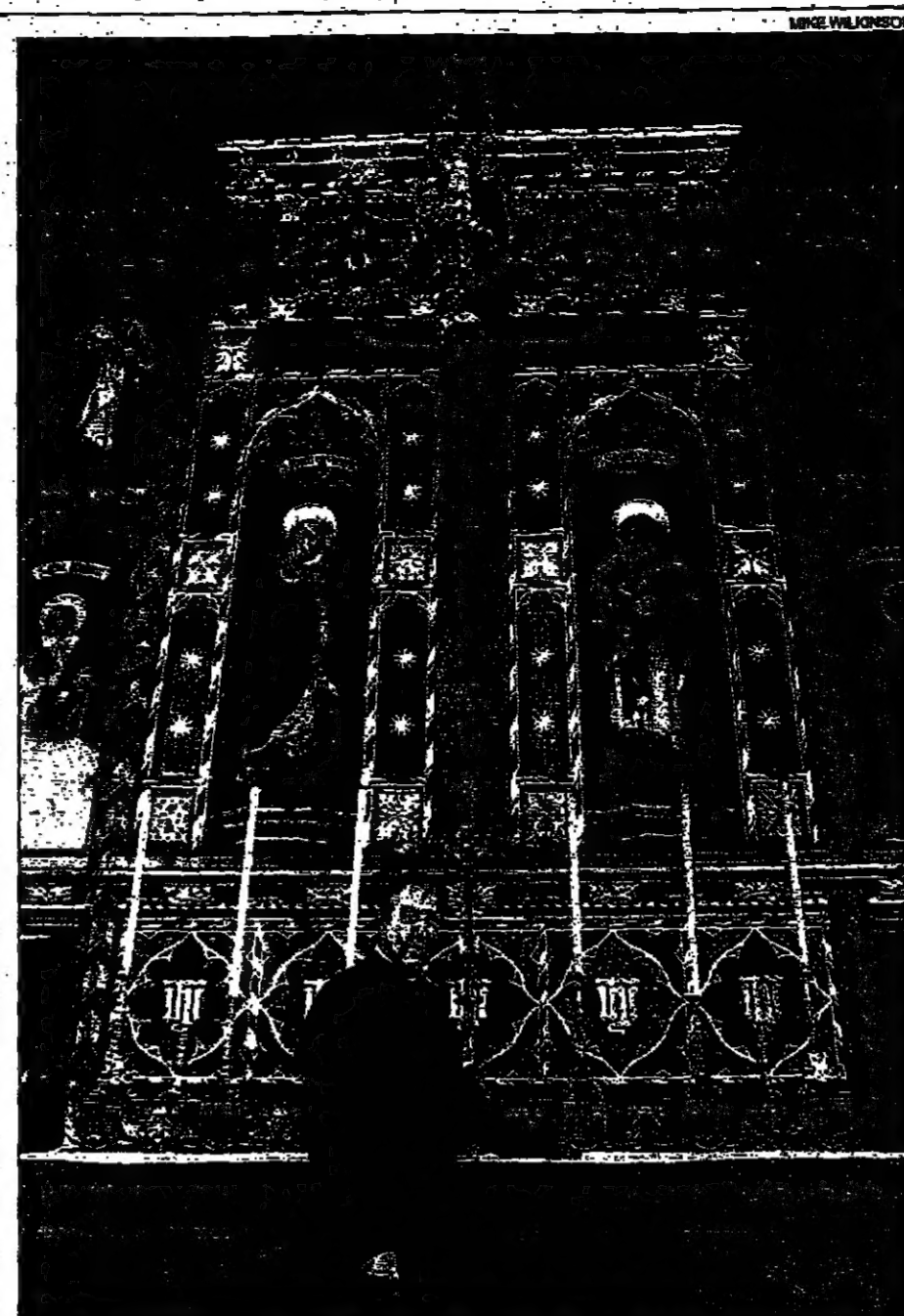
able, and which was certainly chewed by later peoples. "It looks as if the birch bark had some importance, perhaps some ritual significance."

Her research has taken her to Scandinavia to collect specimens of the gum, which she analysed using a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer. This shows clearly that the ancient material contains the same chemical species as modern tar made from birch bark. The tar was chewed plain and specimens from widely different sites and periods were found to be remarkably similar in composition.

Many plant products, such as tobacco or betel nuts, are chewed to release addictive stimulants, but no such materials have been shown to be present in the birch bark tar. The fact that children often chewed it at the age when they would have been losing their milk teeth suggests they may have been trying to remove loose teeth.

Chewing gum is often thought of a 19th-century American invention. The Scandinavian finds show that chewing has been going on since at least 7000 BC, and that birch bark gum was chewed from then until around 2000 BC.

However, when the Stone Age children had enough, they spat it out. Nothing changes.



The Rev Paul Harvie and the screen he restored after teaching himself gilding

Rector's DIY skill at gilding shines out

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

AN ANGLICAN clergyman, whose previous DIY prowess extended only to wallpapering, has taught himself gilding to restore the fisted 19th-century reredos in his church.

The Rev Paul Harvie, 60, has spent 150 hours applying gold leaf to the 50ft-high panel behind the altar in St Salvator's Episcopal Church in Glasgow. He learnt how to gild from a library book.

"I did a little bit in an out-of-the-way place and it didn't look too bad," he said. He then gilded a screen before attempting the intricate Victorian stonework on the reredos. "Once I started that there really was no going back."

The reredos, in Pre-Raphaelite style, depicts the 12 apostles and four archangels and was originally painted in 1874.

Mr Harvie's work has allowed the church, where he is rector, to apply for Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland grants totalling £125,000. He worked for free, but the architect overseeing the restoration has costed his time. The church can include his labour in the partnership funding the grants require.

Mr Harvie declined to tackle the apostles, which were professionally restored. "I'm the sort of person who likes to have a go," he said.

Caribbean sun shines in Bucks

The English town with the highest concentration of Saint Vincentians anywhere outside the eastern Caribbean island is to be twinned with it.

The first few West Indians from the island arrived in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in the 1950s, and found jobs in furniture factories. Today, there are 5,000 St Vincentians living in High Wycombe, which has a population of 170,000, compared with the island, where 117,000 people live. High Wycombe's mayor, Jamaican-born Sebert Crabtree, agreed the twinning with the East Caribbean High Commission.

Street star ill

The actor Bryan Mosley, who plays Alf Roberts in *Coronation Street*, underwent tests in hospital after suffering his second heart attack in four years. Mr Mosley, 65, was taken ill on Friday and admitted to Bradford Royal Infirmary. His condition was described as satisfactory.

Accused held

A man extradited from France accused of murdering his former girlfriend has been remanded in custody for a month by Portsmouth magistrates. Victor Farrast, 47, is accused of killing Glenda Hughes, 45, last February and of the attempted murder of Anne Filler, 43.

Baby inquiry

Two nurses who were on duty when a baby died in hospital have been suspended. An internal investigation has begun at Burnley General Hospital, Lancashire, into the girl's death in the neonatal intensive care unit two weeks ago. A coroner's inquest will also be held.

Flying squad

Officers reunited 43 stolen bikes with their owners after an identity parade at Barry police station in South Wales. Capes, badges and parkas had been taken into possession by police who raided a flat address after thefts in the area. A 14-year-old boy was released on bail.

Glider crashes

A glider pilot escaped uninjured after his £20,000 aircraft clipped trees, smashed and crashed onto a car park as he tried to land at Lasham Airfield near Alton, Hampshire. The middle-aged local man was treated for shock. The Civil Aviation Authority is holding an inquiry.

Head-butt case

A former boxer has been committed to Crown Court to be sentenced for head-butting an MP. Keiron Quinn, 30, of Wigan, Greater Manchester, had admitted assaulting Ian McCartney, a Labour employment spokesman, after a row over his campaign to register doormen.

Shower death

A teenager died when he was electrocuted by an incorrectly wired shower. Adrian Topping, 19, was found dead in the bath at home in Coppull, Lancashire, by his sister Cheryl, 23. The shower is thought to have been installed several years ago. Their parents were on holiday.

Swan's record

A ringed female Bewick's swan has returned from its summer breeding grounds in Siberia to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, for a record 26th successive year. The swan has had two mates and thirty-two cygnets since 1971.

Rationing care must not mean rationing food



Dr Thomas Stuttard

THE Association of Community Health Councils, which looks after the interests of patients, has issued a report suggesting that not only are people in hospital fed unappetising food but that, in the wards of some hospitals, they are so malnourished that the weak and feeble are starved. The association's interest has been kindled by more than 200 complaints by the families of patients.

From my own experience, I know that starvation can be a contributory cause to the death of the very old, and a year or two ago I, too, might have written to complain. An octogenarian relative was admitted to a ward with a chest infection after flu. She was too debilitated to feed herself but her meals, quite unsuitable for someone so enfeebled, were put on her bedside table. Half an hour later the food was gathered up again, quite untouched, with the jolly quip: "No appetite yet, I see, Lottie." Lottie gave a wan smile.

A quick, surreptitious ward round showed that my relative was not alone in her plight: similar scenes were being repeated all over the ward, but malnourished, virtually starved, Lottie went steadily downhill. Complaints and entreaties were received politely and with such remarks as: "Well, she is well into her eighties," but any rudeness had to be modified by the thought that one didn't want to castigate those who were already hard-pressed. Lottie

finally died, strapped in her chair, after an uneventful lunch. Nobody noticed she was dead until the nursing auxiliaries came to put a cup of tea on her bedside table. Where were the old-fashioned nurses who, when I was a youthful doctor, would find feeding cups and coax the frail into taking the nourishment essential for their recovery?

The Health Department has angrily rejected the association's report and says it is an insult to all those nurses and doctors who work so hard for their patients. Nobody need worry about the care that a relative would receive in the NHS in an acute ward, but a patient is, as the association has said, in some danger in those wards designated for the care of the elderly.

There is a creeping tendency in the NHS to regard the very old as expendable, underserving of the expense of the high-quality care which might ensure their survival. "There has to be some rationing, you know doctor."

The old cannot order their meals, they are not always in a position to shout out if they have been forgotten. If remembered, the food is too often placed beyond their reach and they can be too feeble to feed themselves. It often takes hours a day to feed an elderly, confused patient and there now seems to be nobody to cajole them into taking the food necessary for their recovery. Antibiotics are not enough. Nursing care is needed as well.

Vicars learn serpent's craft

By DAREK GREGORIAN

SIXTY vicars have signed up for a martial arts class after three attacks on clergy — one a murder — on the same night.

The group from the Peterborough diocese is expected to attend the course this afternoon at Northamptonshire Police Headquarters. It was organised after the murder of the Rev Christopher Gray in Liverpool and other attacks last August 13.

Paul Needle, a spokesman for the diocese, said: "We're not teaching them to go on the rampage. The same Jesus who taught us to turn the other cheek also taught us to be crafty as a serpent. You have to understand the world you live in to work in it." The three-hour class will include risk assessment and assertiveness.

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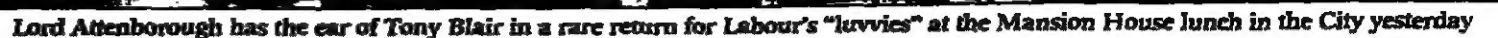
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By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

Letters, page 19



BY ANDREW PIERCE



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Heseltine and Dorrell at odds over the Government's chances of keeping Wirral South Tory campaign gets off to a shaky start

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Tories' by-election campaign in Wirral South faltered as soon as it began yesterday when Michael Heseltine and Stephen Dorrell delivered two contrasting messages to the voters.

Hours before the writ was moved in the House of Commons, Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, acknowledged that people in the Merseyside constituency were ready to "kick the Government". But Mr Dorrell, the Health Secretary, who was launching the Tory by-election campaign, said he was "absolutely certain" that his party would win.

Mr Heseltine's statement, made to BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, appeared to be an admission that the Tories fear they will be unable to hold onto their 8,183 majority. Labour seized on it to declare that the Government had already "thrown in the towel".

Mr Dorrell was clearly upset by Mr Heseltine's remark. When questioned about it during a walkabout in Heswall, he was less bullish about Tory prospects, saying: "I always think that during a by-election campaign, you are well advised to avoid predicting the result and get on with trying to influence it."

John Prescott, the Labour

deputy leader, said at his party's campaign launch: "I don't know of any by-election where the deputy Prime Minister announces he is throwing in the towel and that he doesn't think they could win."

He added: "Even before the writ for Wirral South has been moved officially, senior Tories are falling out, the real issue here is the Tory leadership contest after the general election. Both men are desperate to be leading contenders and Heseltine is no doubt angry that Dorrell has been chosen to kick off the campaign."

To add to the Tories' woes, Mr Dorrell continually had to parry questions about whether the by-election would actually take place on February 27, or whether the party's high command would order a "cut and run" general election if polling returns suggested a big defeat. Mr Dorrell dismissed the fuss as "journalists' love for speculation".

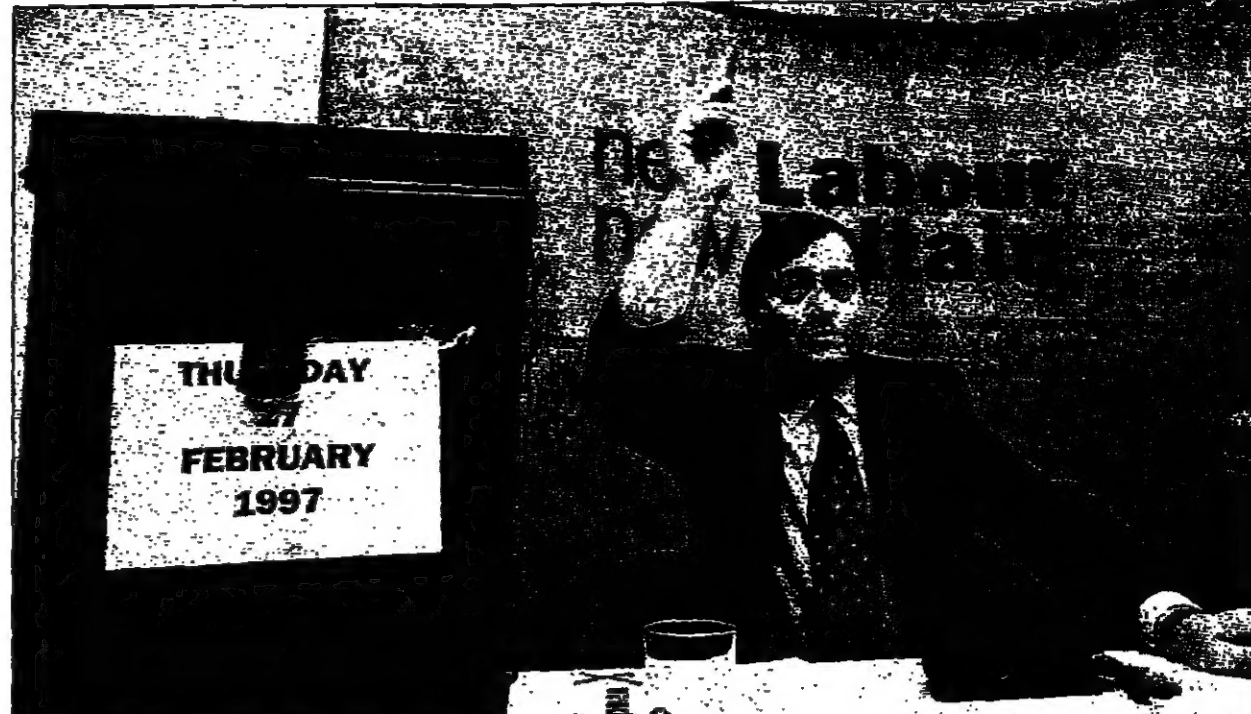
Mr Heseltine's comments had also dismayed the local party workers, who were keen to concentrate their campaign on what they see as the Labour threat to their grammar schools. The Tories' attempt to put Labour's policy on grammar schools under scrutiny went wrong last week when Eric Forth, the Education

Minister, was ejected from the playground of Wirral County Grammar School for Girls.

Later yesterday Mr Prescott heard the writ being moved via telephone link while standing in front of campaign workers at Labour's campaign headquarters in New Ferry. He declared it the first victory. To a round of applause from campaign workers, he shouted: "We have got a voice for the people of Wirral. Now what we have got to do is win the by-election and return Ben Chapman as the next Labour MP. So let's get to it."

At a subsequent press conference Mr Prescott, the Labour MP Ian McCartney, and Mr Chapman, became flustered as they were pressed on their stated policy to allow parents to initiate and hold ballots on whether to change the admissions status of Wirral South's four grammar schools. At one point Mr McCartney refused to take any more questions from the floor about the issue.

Mr Dorrell, during a visit to Wirral Borough Council, who said that although he realised that the local grammar schools were good he was against the principle of selection. Mr Dorrell said: "So much for parental choice. New Labour will do and say



John Prescott launching Labour's by-election campaign at the party's base in Wirral South yesterday

anything to get elected." Last night Tim Collins, a former Conservative Central Office Director of Communications, drew a parallel between Wirral South and the famous fight for the Langbaurgh constituency before the last general election.

The Tories lost the Cleveland constituency to Labour five months before the general election but then won it back. Mr Collins said: "I don't think there is anybody, and this includes every member of the Labour Party campaign team, has any doubt whatever

that Les Byrom is going to be the MP of this constituency with a very healthy majority at the general election. What we recognise is that we have an uphill fight to win the by-election but, unlike new Labour, we are not taking any votes for granted."

THE Liberal Democrats and Labour yesterday vied to be the party for the homeless as both put forward packages to help young people who are living on the streets.

Parties vie to do most for homeless

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats and Labour yesterday vied to be the party for the homeless as both put forward packages to help young people who are living on the streets.

Tony Blair dismissed as "complete and utter nonsense" accusations that Labour was giving up on the weakest members in society by wading Middle England. The Labour leader provoked anger last month when he backed zero-tolerance policies towards petty street crime, and said he did not give to beggars. But yesterday he announced that he was setting up a summit with local councils, housing organisations and voluntary groups to draw up policies dealing with the housing problems of young people leaving care.

Speaking at the launch of the Action for Children campaign by the National Children's home, Mr Blair said: "It is only by broadening our appeal that we stand a chance of winning the election, and without winning, we can do nothing for the poor, the unemployed and the homeless."

A Labour government would provide training for young people so that they could find jobs and avoid becoming homeless; provide measures to boost the building of affordable rented housing; and reform the Housing Act. The Liberal Democrats also called for practical action to get the homeless off the streets, warning that sleeping rough was "a fast track to a wasted life". Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, said it was time to "condemn a little less" as he called for more practical help to those sleeping rough, such as more hostel beds and night shelters, and vacant property to be made available to the homeless.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to national heritage ministers and the Lord Chancellor's Department; debate on English Revenue Support Grant; debate on the development of the Mersey Gateway; the Lords business includes: Transfer of Crofting Estates (Scotland) Bill, report; Deputy at Work Bill, report; Sunday Opening and Licensing Bill, committee; Private Hire Vehicles (London) Bill, second reading; Local Government (Single Member) (Scotland) Bill, second reading.

CONSERVATIVE

Les Byrom, 40, has risen through the ranks of Sefton Borough Council since he was first elected to the authority in 1985. He led the council from 1991 until last year. In 1990 he cut his teeth as a Parliamentary candidate in the Knowsley South by-election, which was won comfortably by Labour, and went on to fight the seat for a second time at the 1992 general election.

Mr Byrom, married with two children, is a rotund figure who frequently sports a voluminous, belted raincoat. A partner in his own firm of chartered surveyors, he began his formal association with the Tories in 1974, when he became chairman of Southport Young Conservatives — a record contrasted by supporters with that of Labour's candidate, Ben Chapman, who joined the party only ten months ago. Local observers say



that Mr Byrom's long experience of Merseyside politics may mean he will be reluctant to see Cabinet ministers and other high-profile visiting campaigners take centre stage during press conferences and walkabouts. "Well-meaning but slightly naive," was one assessment yesterday.

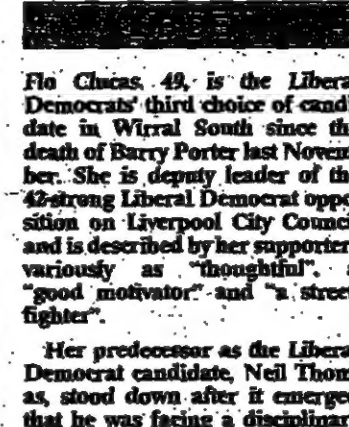
LABOUR

Ben Chapman, 56, was chosen by Labour to fight Wirral South after the previous candidate, Ian Wingfield, resigned in November. As a director of the Department of Trade and Industry in the North West, Mr Chapman was bound by rules forbidding civil servants from joining political parties and became a Labour member only ten months ago. His selection after such a short membership, when tradition requires potential candidates to have been Labour members for at least two years, raised the hackles of some Labour leftwingers.

His supporters will be highlighting the fact that he is the only one of the three main candidates who lives in Wirral South. They also argue that his experience as an international diplomat gives him more political clout than his Tory and Liberal Democrat opponents,



whose backgrounds are in local government. Mr Chapman, divorced with three adult daughters, lives in a pink cottage in Lower Heswall, one of the villages that has prompted some to christen Wirral South "Sussex on the Mersey". He runs a business promoting trade with the Far East.



Flo Chicas, 49, is the Liberal Democrat's third choice of candidate in Wirral South since the death of Barry Porter last November. She is deputy leader of the 42-strong Liberal Democrat opposition on Liverpool City Council and is described by her supporters variously as "thoughtful", a "good motivator" and "a street-fighter".

Mrs Chicas, a Roman Catholic,



is a teacher and fluent French speaker. She is married with two children and has fought two general elections for the Liberal Democrats: Halton in 1987 and Crosby in 1992. She also stood for the European Parliament in Merseyside East in 1994.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4 1997

Detective changes station in life as he retires to Lords

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE clothes are more ceremonial than plain, but detective Rodney Muff believes he will have no trouble fitting in at the House of Lords after giving up his job to take his seat.

The 50-year-old constable, who retired from the West Yorkshire force earlier this year, is in Parliament as Baron Calverley of Bradford. The third Lord Calverley inherited his title when his father died in 1971, but was determined to continue his career as a police officer.

He remained plain Rodney Muff to his colleagues in Bradford until retiring after 33 years with the force. He said yesterday: "I shall take the same approach as I had when I was a policeman: to do the job to the best of my ability."

"I'd just like to use some common sense and my background as a policeman. I feel that, being a police officer at the sharp end for that length of time, I have got my feet on the ground. I know what the average man feels."

"Most of my colleagues knew, though it wasn't something I shouted about. I'd like to think that they always took me for what I am, not an



Arms of the law: Rodney Muff in uniform as a young officer in 1963, the year he joined the police force, and the family shield which is part of his new life



hereditary peer, but a police officer and a member of the team. There was miskey-taking, but it was always good-natured."

He has taken the Liberal-Democrat whip even though the title was created in 1945 for his grandfather, George Muff, the Labour MP for Hull East, to boost the party's ranks in the upper house.

He thinks his grandfather would have approved of his choice of party. "He was a

Liberal to start with. It was only when the Labour Party was founded that his humble background swayed him. In those days there was a need for socialism. People were hungry, with nothing on their feet. I have a social conscience but I am not a socialist."

He sees New Labour as a different party to his grandfather's. "Tony Blair wants to get rid of hereditary peers, he wants to get rid of a lot of things which are the fabric of

the land. He seems to want to get rid of everything that has stood the test of time."

"I haven't any set policies to take with me. I have never been especially political and this will be completely new to me. I will be on a learning curve, but I intend to play my part to the full. It will be a full-time thing for me. It is a serious business, it is not a job, it is your duty. On the writ of summons it states it is your duty to attend and it is the

highest court in the land." He will attend sittings five days a week, living in a flat in London and returning to Bradford at weekends. He took his seat last month, but has yet to speak in a debate.

He said: "My wife is supporting me and there is an element of pride. I am just a humble policeman and I hope I can bring some sound common sense to the proceedings. My family has never had silver spoons in our mouths."

The title descended in 1955 to his father George, a former Army captain, but his job as an insurance official prevented him taking his seat. Lord Calverley said: "He would have liked to have taken early retirement and done his bit in the Lords but unfortunately he didn't live long enough. I now find myself in a position to attend the House."

"I am doing this so much for my father. He would have loved to have done it. He was more of a political animal because he knew my grandfather much better."

"My grandfather died when I was a kid, so I only have vague recollections of him, though I remember the hoo-ha of him going down to Parliament. It was all very grand."



Lord Calverley believes his years as a policeman will help him in his new role

Lord Calverley, who lives in a modest pebbledash house with his wife Barbara, 50, a nurse, and their sons Jonathan, 21, a graphic artist, and Andrew, 18, a sociology and

social sciences student, joined the police as a cadet in 1963. He began on foot patrol in Bradford before becoming a detective in the Special Branch and aliens department. He

ended his career in the Major Crime Unit, winning two commendations. "The job has changed a great deal, for the worse," he said. "Police don't have the respect they used to."

Tories risk all in the lion's mouth

Tory strategists believe that Europe could be a big vote-winner, to judge by their bizarre new poster featuring a weeping lion. They are right that voters care more about Europe. But they are confusing separate and conflicting ways in which Europe affects public opinion — firstly, as an issue on its own merits; and, secondly, in shaping party images.

A year ago, Europe regularly came sixth or seventh in the public's list of the most important issues facing Britain, mentioned by between 10 and 15 per cent in the regular MORI polls for The Times. The number of mentions varied, depending on whether a Euro-row had been in the headlines.

However, the number of mentions crept up last year to more than 20 per cent, and fourth or fifth in importance. In early December, mentions of Europe jumped to 38 per cent, second equal with education, behind the health service. The latest MORI poll showed a drop to 29 per cent, fourth in importance.

However, as significant are large variations within the electorate. Nearly half of Tory loyalists — those who have stuck by the party since 1992 — regard Europe as among the most important issues facing Britain today, well ahead of schools or crime. By contrast, just a fifth of Labour loyalists mention Europe.

Three in ten switchers — those who have deserted from the Tories or swung behind Labour since 1992 — rate Europe as among the most important issues. Even more striking is that a third of Tory loyalists view Europe as the single most important issue facing Britain, compared with a tenth of Labour loyalists.

Underlining the potential for the Tories, a fifth of those who have deserted the party since 1992 regard Europe as the single most important issue. The Tories have lost ground against Labour since 1992 as the party with the best policies on Europe, but have recovered a little in the past two years. These figures suggest that a strong line on Europe may be a good way

of rallying the faithful and appealing to some wavering voters. Tory strategists believe they can play the patriotic card — witness the lion poster — against Tony Blair's alleged willingness to make concessions to Brussels.

But the real differences between the Tories and Labour on European integration — national controls over immigration, frontiers, defence and foreign policy — are greatly exaggerated, though the Tories are making the most of Labour's support for minor extensions of qualified majority voting, and "social Europe". Union leaders will later today conjure up a picture of job-destroying continental intervention over proposals under the social chapter. The Tories have a point here, and Labour has a case to answer about the possible impact, but the significance for British industry is not as great as Mr Major claims.

On the single currency, while a re-elected Tory government would certainly not go in, a Labour administration would probably not do so in the first wave, even if, as Robin Cook suggested, it would favour entry if monetary union succeeded over its first three or four years. In any event, voters will have a final say in a referendum or a second election.

However, the potential gains for the Tories by campaigning on Europe may be offset by the party's divisions on the issue. Despite Mr Major's adroit efforts to create a facade of unity, every time Europe is mentioned, differences emerge, and one or other faction puts its "spin" on the compromise wording.

One of the most damaging factors for the Tories over the past five years has been the appearance of disunity because of Europe. Strategists would be mistaken to believe that Europe is somehow the magic solution to their problems. Rather, it may remind voters of them.

PETER RIDDELL

Mills hires expert to improve CPS image

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Director of Public Prosecutions has hired a communications chief to rescue the image of the embattled Crown Prosecution Service.

Dame Barbara Mills, QC, has appointed Lyn Salisbury, now a chief press officer at the Department of Trade and Industry, to the new post after a poll by MORI for a civil service union found low morale and poor communications within the service. Her task is to promote the CPS outside and inside the service.

Ms Salisbury, 49, has a good track record of handling sensitive issues in the news,

including, while she was at the Ministry of Defence, the Gulf War and, at the DTL, the future of the Brent Spar oil platform. The job would be a challenge, she said. "I think the CPS gets a raw deal. People don't always understand the constraints it is under."

The CPS is playing down the significance of the post: a spokesman said it was in line with reorganisation in other government departments. But last week Mrs Mills confirmed that there would be a change in approach. "We are going to be far more proactive," she said.

How long can Government policy go on restricting our growth?

The Government claims that it believes in free trade and open competition. So far as international air travel is concerned, the reality is very different.

Manchester Airport's ability to grow routes outside the European Union is being stunted by red tape in the form of archaic regulations dating back to 1947, which were introduced essentially for military reasons, and before the introduction of passenger jets. These regulations — called bilateral agreements — require that before an airline can start a new service between 2 countries an international treaty between the respective Governments is required.

In today's highly competitive market place these rules are

an utter irrelevance to Manchester and other regional airports. Other Governments recognise this and pursue an Open Skies policy to the benefit of their airports and countries.

Major competitor airports like Singapore and Amsterdam therefore attract additional routes without getting snarled up in inter-governmental politics. By contrast, Manchester is constrained by a regulatory process which impedes and deters international airlines from starting new services.

The impact on the regional economy and on employment is enormous. An independent firm of analysts, York Consulting, has estimated that the introduction of an Open Skies policy

would create in the order of 10,000 jobs in the North West between now and 2005.

An IATA passenger survey has found Manchester to be the "World's Best Airport". Many airlines want to start up routes to and from Manchester, allowing more passengers to fly directly to their chosen destinations, and creating jobs here rather than exporting them. The Government can unilaterally declare "Open Skies" over Manchester and other regional airports and support the creation of jobs and passenger choice.

There is no good reason why the Government should not act now. It must!

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Nato expansion would be 'biggest error in 50 years'

By ANATOLE KALETSKY in DAVOS and MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Kremlin yesterday described the planned enlargement of Nato to include Poland and other countries in Eastern Europe as the "biggest mistake by Western leaders for 50 years".

The Yeltsin administration declared that Nato enlargement would draw a "new line across the whole of Europe" and would "lead inevitably to a rethinking of all Russian external policy". This would include not only military relations with Nato, but also political co-operation with Western Europe and economic relations with the International Monetary Fund, the Paris Club and the World Bank.

The only circumstances that could make Nato enlargement tolerable for Russia would be the West's agreement to a legally-binding treaty of friendship between Russia and Nato. This treaty would have to give Russia a cast-iron and perpetual guarantee against any deployment of nuclear weapons and other military hardware on the territory of former Warsaw Pact countries — and it would have to be ready for signature before the Nato summit, to be held in Madrid in July.

The major hardening of the Russian stance was announced yesterday by Anatoli Chubais, the Kremlin Chief of Staff, who is generally believed to hold plenipotentiary powers during the President's illness.

Speaking at a press conference at the World Economic Forum at Davos, he said he was speaking out because of the lack of understanding of Russia's concerns among Western public opinion and leaders. Mr Chubais emphasised that, in making his statement, he was speaking with the authority of President Yeltsin and the Russian Government, as well as expressing the "universal" opposition to Nato enlargement.

ment across the political spectrum in Russia.

Mr Chubais said Nato enlargement was "unacceptable to Russia under any conditions", but he recognised that the alliance was likely to take that step. Therefore the Russian leadership was offering compromise proposals.

Meanwhile, Ukraine was promised a special security relationship with Nato yesterday. The proposal was outlined by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, in a visit to Ukraine. Nato sources said Mr Portillo was speaking in line with alliance policy of offering Kiev a similar partnership to the one now being negotiated with Russia.

The plan is to forge a formal security agreement with Ukraine which can be signed by President Clinton and Leonid Kuchma, the President of Ukraine, at the Madrid Nato summit. At the same time, a special security charter would be signed with Russia.

□ Italian "time-bomb": Senior German bankers and businessmen at the Davos meeting expressed growing scepticism about Italy's ability to join economic and monetary union in 1999.

Ulrich Cautli, a board member of Deutsche Bank and an outspoken proponent of an early monetary union, surprised many other bankers and shocked the Italian contingent when he asked: "How will France and Germany explain to Italy that it should stay out? In the view of many, if Italy is admitted to the single currency zone, it could be a time-bomb within the union. If these issues drag on much longer, the whole scenario of EMU in 1999 could implode."

Deutsche Bank is believed to follow policies very close to those of the German Government. Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, appeared to endorse the comments when he said there could be no softening of entry requirements for any country and that the "convergence" criteria would take absolute priority over any artificial deadlines or dates.

Russia unveils plan to lead arms sales

FROM RICHARD BEESON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA has unveiled an aggressive strategy to beef up its arms sales abroad, vowing to lead the world in weapons exports by next year.

In a move likely to cause concern in the West, where Moscow's sale of military hardware to repressive regimes is regarded as destabilising, Russia's state arms manufacturer has announced a new marketing drive in developing countries.

Mikhail Timkin, the deputy director general of Rosvooruzheniye, the state arms agency, said: "If we are not hindered and if we are supported by the Government politically, we hope to catch up with the United States in terms of arms exports or even outstrip it in 1998," he said.

Russian arms exports were worth \$3.5 billion (£2.2 billion) last year, less than half the total of American sales and about the same value as those of France and Britain. However, the Russians have doubled their exports of military equipment since 1994, clinching orders worth just under \$10 billion.

The most controversial recent deal was the decision to sell advanced S300 surface-to-air missiles to Cyprus — a move condemned by the West because it could trigger renewed hostilities between Greeks and Turks.

Russia has also upset the international community by selling three Kilo class submarines to Iran, warplanes to India and Malaysia, advanced weapons including jet fighters to China, and ten Mi17 military transport helicopters to Colombia.



The El Greco masterpiece, just 17in by 11in, sold at Christie's in Manhattan

£2m record paid for El Greco

New York: A record auction price for an El Greco was achieved in New York when the Spanish artist's *Christ on the Cross* sold for £2,239,130 (Quentin Letts writes).

The bid, at Christie's in Manhattan, was made anonymously after brisk interest from a packed auction room. A Juan de Zurbarán painting, *Apples in a wicker basket with pomegranates*, also attracted a world record price of £1,777,950.

The El Greco masterpiece

— 17in by 11in — dates from the Cretan artist's residence in Rome towards the end of the 16th century. It was held to be an important moment in his artistic development.

The history of the painting is something of a mystery; there is little record of its existence before 1969, when it was acquired by the owner who has just sold it. The picture shows Christ after breathing his last on the Cross, the heavens above

depicted with the raw intensity which was later to become El Greco's trademark.

After Rome, El Greco moved to Spain. His crucifixion paintings from that era tend to show Christ alive, with a development of the surrounding canvas.

Anthony Crichton-Stuart, head of Christie's Old Master department, described the auction, which raised more than £13 million, as one of the most successful mixed sales in recent years.

Cindy and Rita cover their tracks in udder secrecy

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BRITISH cows, shunned by Europe because of BSE, are coming out of the cold as farmers deploy tactics normally associated with deep-cover espionage agents.

German agriculture officials yesterday admitted that at least one German Galloway cow had thrown investigators into confusion, by switching identities in a technique borrowed from Frederick Forsyth's *The Day of the Jackal*.

"We still do not know the true identity of Cindy," conceded Franz Josef Feiler, the Junior Agriculture Minister. "We are hoping to gain some clues from our contacts in the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries."

Cindy sent the already depressed German beef market into a spin when the Galloway — apparently German-born — was found to have "mad cow" disease. Domestic beef demand dropped dramatically and several countries stopped all imports of German livestock and beef products — this from a country that has reported only five cases of BSE since 1992 and which has been particularly stringent in its controls.

Cindy slipped through the net. Or was she really called Rita? The transformation of Rita into Cindy follows a sequence by sequence the method used by Forsyth's fictional assassin. He sought out the name of a dead child with approximately the same birth date as himself. A birth certificate was acquired and the agent applied for a passport in the child's name; similar techniques are still used in the espionage world.

The most plausible explanation for Germany's latest mad cow is as follows: a British-born Galloway cow called Camella gave birth in July 1992 to a still-born male calf. Three years later the identity papers were adjusted to record the dead calf as a living female called Cindy. She was given an appropriate ear tag. Under German rules, there was nothing to stop the sale of Cindy, Camella's daughter. The cow passed from an East German farm to North Rhine-Westphalia, where she died of BSE last December. However, investigators believe that Cindy may never have existed: she

was, in the best tradition of the Cold War thriller, a decoy.

Cindy, according to this version, was in fact Rita, imported from Scotland. This would have been illegal. It would also show that German controls are not all they are cracked up to be. If Cindy is Rita, however, Germany can still claim to be free of domestically-bred BSE.

Like all good spy stories, there are intricate subplots in this tale of intrigue. "There are three possibilities," said a senior agriculture official. "First, Cindy really is the daughter of Camella. Or, Cindy is in fact Rita and is a direct import from Britain. Or, Cindy is the daughter of another unknown mother."

Last week it was even suspected, in all seriousness, that Cindy was her own mother. "The identity of Cindy is still a mystery," said Herr Feiler.

German officials are utterly frustrated. "I cannot possibly position a policeman or a vet behind every cow's bottom," said Martin Brück, the Agriculture Minister of Mecklenburg region.

The Agriculture Ministry in Bonn said yesterday it was sticking to its plan to slaughter 5,200 cattle imported from Britain, Northern Ireland and Switzerland, and that the future of the next generation of calves would depend on genetic and blood tests on brain samples from the slaughtered cows. The Health Ministry is continuing to press for a radical solution, involving the cull of perhaps 20,000 cattle from two generations of British origin.

It is difficult to see how the Germans can come out well from the Cindy affair. If it turns out that she was German-born, the country's export market will suffer permanent damage. If she is found to be English or Scottish-born, the flawed German control system is likely to cause lasting harm to consumer confidence.

New security measures will include chips implanted under the hide of every animal. Germany is also pressing hard for a European passport for cows — although Forsyth fans know, all too well, that passports are far from infallible.

- 1 The Lord of the Rings J.R.R. Tolkien
- 2 Nineteen Eighty-Four George Orwell
- 3 Animal Farm George Orwell
- 4 Ulysses James Joyce
- 5 Catch-22 Joseph Heller
- 6 The Catcher in the Rye J.D. Salinger
- 7 To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee
- 8 One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- 9 The Grapes of Wrath John Steinbeck
- 10 Trainspotting Irvine Welsh

The 100 GREATEST BOOKS of the 20th CENTURY. How many HAVE YOU READ?

- 11 Wild Swans Jung Chang
- 12 The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 13 Lord of the Flies William Golding
- 14 On the Road Jack Kerouac
- 15 Brave New World Aldous Huxley
- 16 The Wind in the Willows Kenneth Grahame
- 17 Winnie-the-Pooh A.A. Milne
- 18 The Color Purple Alice Walker
- 19 The Hobbit J.R.R. Tolkien
- 20 The Outsider Albert Camus
- 21 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe C.S. Lewis
- 22 The Trial Franz Kafka
- 23 Come with the Wind Margaret Mitchell
- 24 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams
- 25 Midnight's Children Salman Rushdie
- 26 The Diary of Anne Frank Anne Frank
- 27 A Clockwork Orange Anthony Burgess
- 28 Sons and Lovers D.H. Lawrence
- 29 To the Lighthouse Virginia Woolf
- 30 If This Is a Man Primo Levi
- 31 Lolita Vladimir Nabokov
- 32 The Wave Factory Iain Banks
- 33 Remembrance of Things Past Marcel Proust
- 34 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Ronald Dahl
- 35 Of Mice and Men John Steinbeck
- 36 Beloved Toni Morrison
- 37 Possession A.S. Byatt
- 38 Heart of Darkness Joseph Conrad
- 39 A Passage to India E.M. Forster

- 40 Watership Down Richard Adams
- 41 Sophie's World Jostein Gaarder
- 42 The Name of the Rose Umberto Eco
- 43 Love in the Time of Cholera Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- 44 Rebecca Daphne du Maurier
- 45 The Remains of the Day Kazuo Ishiguro
- 46 The Unbearable Lightness of Being Milan Kundera
- 47 Birdsong Sebastian Faulks
- 48 Howards End E.M. Forster
- 49 Brideshead Revisited Evelyn Waugh
- 50 A Suitable Boy Vikram Seth
- 51 Dune Frank Herbert
- 52 A Prayer for Owen Meany John Irving
- 53 Perfume Patrick Suskind
- 54 Doctor Zhivago Boris Pasternak
- 55 Gormenghast Nevill Martin
- 56 Cider with Rosie Laurie Lee
- 57 The Bell Jar Sylvia Plath
- 58 The Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood
- 59 Testament of Youth Vera Brittain
- 60 The Magus John Fowles
- 61 Brighton Rock Graham Greene
- 62 The Ragged-Dickenses Philanthropos Robert Tresselt
- 63 The Master and Margarita Mikhail Bulgakov
- 64 Tales of the City Armistead Maupoli
- 65 The French Lieutenant's Woman John Fowles
- 66 Captain Corelli's Mandolin Louis de Bernieres
- 67 Slaughterhouse 5 Kurt Vonnegut
- 68 Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance Robert M. Pirsig
- 69 A Room with a View E.M. Forster
- 70 Lucky Jim Kingsley Amis
- 71 It Stephen King
- 72 The Power and the Glory Graham Greene
- 73 The Stand Stephen King
- 74 All Quiet on the Western Front Erich Maria Remarque
- 75 Fiddler on the Roof Sholem Chai
- 76 Maudie Roddy Doyle
- 77 American Pie John Fowles
- 78 Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas Hunter S. Thompson
- 79 A Brief History of Time Stephen Hawking
- 80 James and the Giant Peach Ronald Dahl
- 81 Lady Chatterley's Lover D.H. Lawrence
- 82 The Boulevarde of the Vanities Tim Welfe
- 83 Complete Cookery Course Delia Smith
- 84 An Evil Cradling Brian Koppelman
- 85 The Raincoat D.H. Lawrence
- 86 Down & Out in Paris and London George Orwell
- 87 2001: A Space Odyssey Arthur C. Clarke
- 88 The Tin Drum Gunter Grass
- 89 A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- 90 Long Walk to Freedom Nelson Mandela
- 91 The Selfish Gene Richard Dawkins
- 92 Jurassic Park Michael Crichton
- 93 The Alexandria Quartet Lawrence Sanders
- 94 Greville's Beloved Gunter Grass
- 95 High Fidelity Nick Hornby
- 96 The Van Roddy Doyle
- 97 The BFG Ronald Dahl
- 98 Earthly Powers Anthony Burgess
- 99 I, Claudius Robert Graves
- 100 The Horse Whisperer Nicholas Evans

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Clampdown in Belgrade dams tide of protests

Night of fear as relentless police go on attack

By TOM WALKER

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

YOUTHS hurling stones were baton-charged by police and beaten in central Belgrade yesterday, but by nightfall the streets were calm and largely deserted in what one radio station described as a curfew.

A rally of 80,000 protesters perched out in the afternoon sunshine, as riot police quickly moved into position to prevent a march down the central Avenue of Serbian Rulers. There were isolated scuffles, but most protesters headed home as temperatures dipped. Several arrests were made and some demonstrators were treated for minor injuries.

The opposition Zajedno [Together] leaders urged people not to reappear later, a tacit admission that the new schedule of evening protests in the city centre has been abandoned after Sunday's clampdown. Serbian state television described events as a "normal police operation to clear demonstrators blocking a bridge".

What little action there was occurred mainly on the diplomatic front, where President Milosevic's latest recourse to violence appeared to have lost him any lingering foreign support. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, last night called on Mr Milosevic to recognise "without delay" the opposition victories in the

November local elections. Speaking in Stockholm, where he delivered a speech on Europe, Mr Rifkind said he deplored the violence used by police against peaceful demonstrators. France for the first time gave its backing to Zajedno, and Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, invited the coalition's leaders — Zoran Djindjic, Vuk Draskovic and Vesna Pestic — to Paris for discussions.

The three Zajedno leaders all gave differing interpretations of the morning's dramatic events. At a press conference Mr Draskovic denounced the "terror" of the President and said the clampdown was "living proof of the brutality of his police".

Mr Djindjic, whose more moderate tones were winning him favour with the diplomatic community, said that the police action was a typical knee-jerk from the President, most probably inspired by his impatient Communist wife, Mira Markovic. "She probably said to him 'how can you allow these junkies and criminals to threaten people in the town?'" Ms Pestic agreed that Mrs Markovic could have been behind the clampdown.

"VUK, VUK, VUK" chanted the crowd in support of the Serbian opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic. As they surged onto the Brankov bridge from Lenin Boulevard early yesterday, the Belgrade air was thick with the smoke of burning tyres in front was a solid blue police cordon, riot shields reflecting the flames of the barricades.

At some imperceptible moment, the mood changed. The blue barrier of Serbian state control suddenly lunged forward, no longer a line of individuals but a machine that could kill and maim. The crowd split back, its earlier humour and solidarity lost.

It was half past midnight. The police advance continued, smashing through the burning barricades, somehow faster at a march than the running demonstrators. A cameraman fell beneath falling truncheons. Some protesters rallied, lobbing chunks of concrete and bombs.

But the resistance was waning. The demonstrators melted into the few of high-rise blocks. A few brave souls lingered on the pavements. "Ustasha, Ustasha" (Second World War Croat fascists) they screamed at the police lines fanning through the escape routes.

In the early hours, Belgrade's residents took solace in their treasured independent radio stations, Index and



Vuk Draskovic, the opposition leader, addresses a crowd of 80,000 in Belgrade yesterday as police keep watch

B-92. Throughout the city, thousands listened in to the aftermath of some of the worst riots since 1991. A war and sanctions have changed little, save that the people are angry and ten times poorer.

Index, a sort of bush telegraph, warned them to stay indoors: the police, it said, have orders to beat and arrest "anyone wearing training shoes or carrying a whistle".

Mr Draskovic responded, "There can be no more Gaus-

si-style resistance to this madness," he said on the air, calling for all citizens to take to the streets the next day. "All participants must take with them something they can use to defend themselves."

Mr Draskovic is a novelist, poet and philosopher, given to emotional outbursts against a state that jailed, tortured and beat him after protests four years ago. He told Index listeners police had just tried to shoot him in

the old city, near Kalemegdan park. "It was to be the day of my death," he said.

Fact and fiction are blurred in Mr Draskovic's rhetoric, and middle-class Belgrade residents are becoming wary of his calls to revolt. He retracted his call to arms later, but the damage was done.

A division is emerging in the Zajedno leadership, with Mr Draskovic appealing to the rank-and-file and the more moderate Zoran Djindjic winning over middle-income Serbs who do not want to see the few gains they have made in recent weeks lost in a bloody clampdown.

Belgraders will continue their protests with whistles and flags, but the stakes are now higher. The mandate of the contested Belgrade city council has run out, creating a power vacuum for President Milosevic to declare a state of emergency and direct rule in the capital.

Snap poll held in rich land of false teeth

By MICHAEL BINYON

DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MARIO FRICK, Europe's youngest Prime Minister, yesterday won a snap election in Liechtenstein and immediately began negotiations on continuing a coalition that has been in power since 1988. The rest of the country was preoccupied with the annual Children's Carnival.

The election, held in sections on Friday evening and Sunday morning, produced little change in Europe's richest country and the last one governed by an absolute monarchy. The Fatherland Union of Herr Frick, 32, returned with 13 seats, the same as it held in the last parliament. The rival Progressive People's Party won 11 seats, a loss of one, and the Green List — the only alternative to the two right-wing parties — doubled its strength to two seats, suggesting a new wave of ecological activism.

Combining the election with the carnival parade led to a big turnout, of 86.3 per cent. As soon as the voting was over, Malcolm Rifkind arrived on the first official visit by a British Foreign Secretary for an agreeable lunch with Dr Andrea Willi, Liechtenstein's Foreign Minister, as the carnival parade continued. Mr Rifkind noted that Britain and Liechtenstein had three things in common: the same national anthem tune, the same wedge shape and the same attitude to Europe.

In theory, the principality's Government holds little power: all authority is vested in the hereditary ruler, Prince Hans Adam II. He has clashed with his Government and threatened to dismiss it when he disagreed over Liechtenstein's vote not to follow Switzerland in keeping out of the European Economic Area.

With 30,000 people — mostly living outside the capital, Vaduz, in the Alpine valleys — Liechtenstein, 66 square miles, is rich. Apart from offering a tax shelter to foreign companies, it makes money from high technology, stamps and ceramics: it is the world's biggest manufacturer of false teeth, a main export.



Le Pen: depressed South is proving fertile ground

Mainstream parties work on strategy to thwart Le Pen

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S mainstream parties sought to unite against the National Front yesterday after its novice candidate forged ahead in the first round of a municipal election.

With the National Front now poised to win control of a fourth southern French town, Alain Juppé, the Gaullist Prime Minister, issued a personal plea for the Government's own candidate to pull out of the mayoral race in Vitrolles, just north of Marseilles, to give the Socialist contender a chance to block the

National Front in next Sunday's second round of voting.

Catherine Mégrét, standing for the National Front, captured nearly 47 per cent of the vote last Sunday, just three percentage points short of outright victory. The Socialist incumbent, Jean-Jacques Anglade, trailed her by ten points while Roger Guichard, representing the ruling centre-right coalition, polled a dismal 16 per cent. "We'll finish the job next Sunday," Mme Mégrét said.

The mayoral election in this depressed town, of 39,000 people, soured by tension over immigration and growing unemployment, has

been marked by violence, accusations of fraud and claims that Mme Mégrét is a political lightweight acting as the puppet-candidate for her husband, Bruno Mégrét, who is the Front's deputy leader.

M. Mégrét was disqualified from standing for the Mayor's job because of overspending in his 1995 campaign, but there is little doubt that he will be running Vitrolles if the Front emerges victorious next weekend. The righthand man to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the Front's leader, M. Mégrét has said that, if the party wins, he will act as "chief adviser" to his wife, who will mainly occupy her time, in

his words, with "public relations". National Front campaign posters urge townsfolk to "Vote Mégrét", while a cartoon on the front page of the *Liberation* newspaper yesterday showed a rat-like M. Mégrét leading his wife on a leash.

With unemployment at a record level, the South has proved a fertile recruiting ground for M. Le Pen, whose party advocates sending back three million immigrants and giving employment priority to white French people. The Front controls Toulon, Orange and Marignane and, with legislative elections due in 1988, the prospect of another southern far-

right bastion has rattled the Government. "What we all want is the centre-right candidate who came third to pull out," M Juppé said yesterday, urging that a single mainstream candidate should oppose Mme Mégrét.

Opposition Socialists applauded the idea, but M Guichard has refused to oblige, arguing that M Anglade should stand down. One faction within the ruling centre-right coalition, led by Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, urged M Guichard to stay, insisting that Vitrolles "should not have to choose between the plague and cholera".

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Clinton hopes to appease foes with tax-cutting budget

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton will make \$98 billion (€61.25 billion) of tax cuts the centrepiece of his budget, which will be unveiled before Congress on Thursday. In an attempt to appease Republican opponents and get his second term off to a productive start.

Despite the tax cuts, his budget also lays out a plan for wiping out the federal deficit — the gap between the Government's annual income and spending — by 2002.

The balanced-budget goal, a totem of many Republicans but anathema to liberal Democrats, is in sharp contrast to

the kaleidoscope of high-spending aims of his first term and shows how far Mr Clinton has dragged his economic policies in the Republicans' direction since then.

A financially prudent Government will be one of the main themes of the State of the Union speech tonight. He will also focus on the looming task of moving people off welfare and into jobs and, most controversially, reforming the rules on election funding after the most expensive campaign in US history.

However, it is the budget more than the speech that will

set the tone for his second term; it forces him to put numbers as well as words to his campaign pledges. The budget's conservative tone, disclosed in interviews yesterday and on Sunday with senior administration officials, reduces the risk that it will be savaged by Congress, thereby undermining Mr Clinton's ability to achieve much in his second term.

The proposed \$98 billion of tax relief, to be spread over five years, will consist largely of credits allowing families or students to set the cost of education against tax. Mr Clinton has made the extension of higher education the most prominent social policy of his second term.

Tax relief will also be directed towards the costs of home ownership, and the budget would lift capital gains tax on selling a home. Like the educational tax credits, these proposals are directed mainly at middle-income families.

Mr Clinton proposes to pay for \$80 billion of the tax cuts by clawing back parts of business subsidies and tax loopholes that have built up over decades, such as exemptions from tax for interest and dividends.

Republicans in the Senate and House of Representatives, who have called for larger and less specific tax cuts, of up to \$160 billion, have given grudging approval to the tone of the budget but will find plenty to attack. In particular, they have called for more tax cuts to be directed at higher income brackets.

They also criticise Mr Clinton's plans for Medicare, the ever-expanding healthcare programme for the elderly, for failing to ask well-off pensioners to contribute more.

Mr Clinton will also face a fierce separate battle with Congress during the next few weeks over a move to rewrite the US Constitution to balance the budget each year.

The President argues that it will shackle the Government's ability to help people during recession or to help the economy to recover.



Lance Alstott, a 26-year-old New York banker, jumps for joy after winning \$1 million (£620,000) with a single kick at an American football match in Hawaii (Quentin Letts writes).

Mr Alstott strode out in front of a 50,000 crowd at the Pro Bowl game on Sunday to attempt the 35-yard place kick for goal. The \$1 million chance is offered

Banker leaps at \$1m goal

every year to the winner of a draw sponsored by a chocolate manufacturer. The kicker usually fails gallantly. But Mr Alstott is a keen soccer player and had practised. To cheers from the crowd — and some queasy

looks from the sponsors — the ball sailed over. The banker whooped, jumped and then fell over. "I took advantage of my soccer style," he said. "As I approached the ball I blocked everyone out. I hit it good and kept my head down. When I saw it go through I was shocked." Then he added: "Show me the money."

Judge tells of unease after his first death sentence

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SENIOR judge who supports capital punishment has admitted that he had difficulty sleeping after he sent his first death-row convict to his execution.

The disclosures of California-based Judge Alex Kozinski, which were immediately attacked yesterday by a legal ethics organisation, were highly unusual but gave an insight into the strains judges endure during death penalty appeals.

Judge Kozinski, a member of the Ninth Circuit of the US Court of Appeals, wrote a personal article for the *New Yorker* magazine, detailing hour by hour his fitful sleep on the night Thomas Baal was sent to the execution chamber in 1990. Judge Kozinski recalled that he "awoke with a start, sat upright in the darkness" and that his role in Baal's death by lethal injection "took hold of my mind and would not let go". He said he suffered a "nagging sense of unease, something like motion sickness".

Although he restated his belief that it was right to put Baal to death, the judge noted that he found himself hoping that a last-minute stay would be granted.

It is the custom for judges not to discuss personal cases and Judge Kozinski was criticised sharply yesterday by Americans for the Enforcement of Attorney Ethics, Leo Stoller, its director and an opponent of capital punishment, said: "Judge Kozinski is well regarded but it is shocking, very disturbing, that he has discussed this case. When you rule on someone's life your feelings have to be clear-cut." Mr Stoller predicted that the judge's remarks would be seized on by defence lawyers who come before him in future representing death-row inmates.

The judge's recollections coincided with the start of a debate yesterday in the 370,000-member American Bar Association over the possible adoption of a call for a moratorium on capital punishment across America.

Somali pirates demand ransom

Mogadishu: Somali gunmen seized a Kenyan cargo ship off the southern port of Kisumu and are demanding \$15,000 (£9,000) for its release, port officials said yesterday.

They said that eight militiamen using speedboats seized the *Clowe*, which was carrying consumer goods from Mombasa, Kenya, before it could enter the port to unload.

The Regional Piracy Centre of the International Maritime Bureau in Kuala Lumpur said, meanwhile, that attacks on ships rose by five to a record 175 incidents last year. Indonesia was the most badly affected country. (Reuters)

Bookfair blaze

Calcutta: Fire destroyed an international bookfair here, killing one person and reducing thousands of volumes to ashes. The victim was one of four taken to hospital with burns. (Reuters)

Bombs defused

Baghdad: Iraqi newspaper said civil defence teams had so far defused more than 352,000 allied bombs, including cluster shells and missiles, since the end of the Gulf War in 1991. (Reuters)

Indonesia link

Jakarta: A conglomerate run by a daughter of President Suharto will build a £1.53 billion road-rail link in the Indonesian capital, ending speculation about a subway. (Reuters) Indonesia supplement, page 2

Killers let off

Beijing: Two mentally handicapped men who started a fire that killed 36 people in Shanghai will not stand trial. Psychiatrists said the men were incapable of taking responsibility. China Daily said. (AP)

Stings removed

Taipei: A breeder agreed to remove 30,000 scorpions from his backyard after complaints from neighbours. He said that they were used in gourmet dishes and also in Chinese medicine. (AFP)

Dole pushes wife to White House

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, the former Republican presidential candidate, hopes that he might still enter the White House in four years time — as the first First Gentleman in American history.

The retired senator is now promoting the candidature of his wife, Elizabeth, president of the American Red Cross and a Cabinet secretary to successive former Republican administrations. "Got a woman Secretary of State," said Mr Dole, referring to the

recent appointment of Madeleine Albright. "It's only one more step now. It's going to happen... I encourage her to look at it."

Such sentiments were voiced by some leading Republicans even when Mr Dole was running for the White House last year. Many felt that the charismatic Mrs Dole — known as Liddy — would have given President Clinton a much tougher race. Despite her charming Southern demeanour, Mrs Dole, 60, is fiercely ambitious. She has harboured a strong desire for the presidency since her student days at Duke, Harvard and Oxford.

The advice from her husband shows that he is serious about his wife's prospects. "When the 1998 election comes, then take a look," Mr Dole, 73, has yet to find a suitable outlet for his own semi-retirement, apart from numerous appearances on chat shows, as cameos in television comedies or various advertisements. He is now considering writing a regular newspaper column entitled "If I were President" and has been approached as a television commentator.



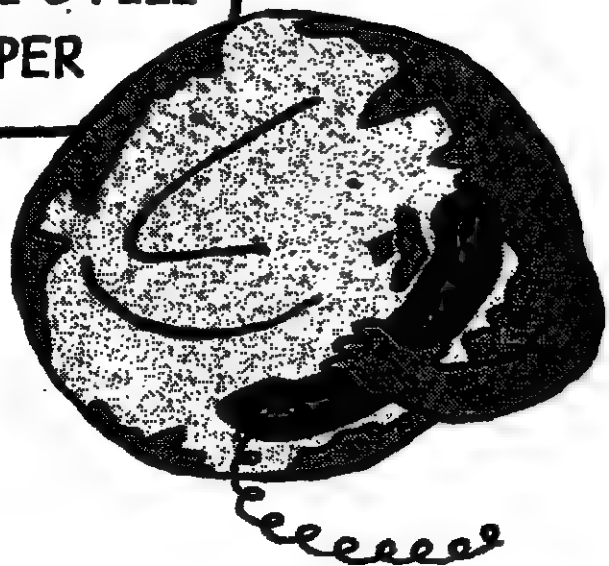
"Liddy" Dole: nurses hope of being President

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Zaire claims allied troops coming to rescue

ZAIREAN officials yesterday claimed to have chartered aircraft to fly troops from Togo, Morocco and Chad to help to put down a rebel offensive which yesterday threatened to take Shaba province and add a third rich area to the guerrillas' territorial gains (Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent, writes).

According to a senior official in Kinshasa, Zaire's capital, the three countries were to send troops which would be

backed up with training by Israel and China. Egypt was to supply Zaire with infantry equipment.

The military official said: "The planes for the operation have already been chartered." However, he did not say when soldiers would arrive in Zaire. President Mobutu arrived in Morocco yesterday for talks with King Hassan.

Yesterday both east Zaire's rebels and the Government said there had been

heavy fighting around the town of Kalemie in northern Shaba (formerly Katanga). The rebels said from their base in Gombe, which they took last November, that the town had already fallen along with most of Walisa, where white mercenaries were trying to defend the airport. The military official in Kinshasa insisted that Zaire was about to launch a recruiting campaign to arm and equip 13 commando brigades of 2,000 men each.

Israelis open road to Hebron

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PEACE hopes in the Middle East received a new boost yesterday when Israeli troops partly reopened an arterial road in the disputed West Bank city of Hebron for limited Palestinian traffic for the first time in three years.

Last month's US-brokered peace deal paved the way for Palestinian ambulances, taxis and municipal vehicles to travel along a section of the road, known to Arabs as "Martyrs' Street" and to Jews as "King David's Street", with further sections to be opened over the next four months.

"The opening of the street means that the two sides are committed to implementing the agreement and the return of normality to the city," Mustapha Natche, the Palestinian Mayor, said.

Tomorrow Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, will fly to Jordan to meet King Hussein and on Thursday he will meet Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to map out the next steps in the revived peace process.

Angry leaders of the 450 militant settlers in Hebron attacked the Government for opening the road, a move which they fear will make them vulnerable to car and lorry bomb attacks. "It is a new reality," Noam Arnon, their spokesman, said. "It will be flooded with Arab cars which will pose a real danger to the Jews here."

□ Gaza: A Palestinian held by Palestine Liberation Organisation security forces in the West Bank city of Nablus was tortured to death during interrogation, the Palestinian Justice Minister said. (Reuters)

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Ousted Pakistani leader denies plan to leave country as voters show their apathy

Bhutto vows she will not recognise defeat in 'rigged' poll

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN LARKANA

A VISIBLY tense Benazir Bhutto, sensing an inevitable defeat for her party yesterday, said that she would not accept an unfavourable election result and delivered a warning of impending political turmoil in the country.

"I will not concede to the outcome of a doctored election," she said as her Pakistan People's Party faced the prospect of being routed. Miss Bhutto said that she would accept the result only if it was similar to that of the 1988 and 1993 polls when her party was swept into power. She accused the caretaker administration of pre-election rigging in 63 of the 217 national assembly seats. There was, however, no evidence to support her allegations.

Mian Nawaz Sharif, who served as Prime Minister from 1990 to 1993, was widely tipped to resume the role as counting began last night after what appeared to be a dismal turnout. Only 15 to 20 per cent of the 56.5 million eligible to vote cast their ballots, the lowest in the country's history. There were few reports of violence at polling stations, guarded by 250,000 troops and monitored by observers from the United States, the European Union, the Commonwealth, South Asia and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

The defiant former Prime Minister, whose Government was dismissed on corruption charges by President Leghari three months ago, vowed that she would regain her lost political ground. She denied reports that she was planning to flee the country. "It is absolutely out of the question that I would ever abandon the

land where my father and brothers are buried," she said. Miss Bhutto's tone sent a clear warning to the new government that she would maintain her confrontational stance.

The voting trend clearly indicates, however, that she has significantly lost the charisma which once made her the most popular Pakistani leader. She is desperately fighting to maintain her political hold in Larkana, her home district. A shadow has been cast over her future by the death of her estranged brother, Murtaza, and the charging of her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, with his murder.

The disenchantment of her erstwhile supporters was clearly evident as an overwhelming majority of people in Larkana did not participate in the election. There were few people to greet her when Miss Bhutto visited polling stations. She looked extremely disturbed when she found out that she was the first person to vote in her local station an hour after polling started.

"We have always supported Benazir, but she did not do anything for us while in government," complained Rahim Baksh, a shopkeeper.

Miss Bhutto's position has been damaged not only by her detained husband, but also by the bitter family feud. Her hitherto undisputed claim to the legacy of her late father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a former Prime Minister who was executed in 1979 by a junta, has also been damaged by Ghinwa Bhutto, her Lebanese-born sister-in-law. Murtaza's widow, who now leads her husband's party, has campaigned fiercely against Miss Bhutto.



Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League, is kissed by a supporter at the polls in Lahore yesterday

Imran Khan stumped at ballot box

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO leading figures in Pakistan failed to vote in yesterday's election.

Imran Khan, the cricketer-turned-politician, failed to cast what would have been his first vote in an election because no one from his party, the Tehrik-i-Insaf (Justice Movement), was standing in the town where he was registered.

And President Leghari did not vote because he said he could not travel to his home town.

Mr Khan, who founded his party last year, appeared in Mianwali, but found nobody from his party to vote for. He declined to vote for either of the two main

parties, Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League, or Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

"It was a question of either voting for the Muslim League or the People's Party," he told reporters. "Neither of the two parties, I feel, has done justice in the past and I do not expect wonders from them now. Unfortunately the Tehrik-i-Insaf could not field a candidate in my constituency, so therefore I am abstaining."

Mr Khan, who led Pakistan to triumph in the 1992 cricket World Cup, has said he did not vote in previous elections because he was out of the country playing cricket. He contested nine constituencies yesterday, as he is permitted to do under electoral law.

President Leghari comes from Dera Ghazi Khan, where his family members, including two sons, were candidates. But he told reporters during a visit to a polling station that he could not travel there because of his busy schedule and that he had not obtained a postal ballot.

He dismissed allegations by Miss Bhutto that the polls would be rigged and said all efforts had been made to plug loopholes so there would be no fraud.

He said there would be no delay in transferring power to the new government and that the next administration would be formed within two weeks.

Sisters-in-law vie for right to family legacy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

THERE is one near-certainty if Benazir Bhutto is defeated: she will be back. Her courage and determination, if not her ethics and motives, are beyond question. Jail and humiliation have not stopped her; nor would a second rejection at the ballot box.

The Bhutto legacy is claimed by women. All the leading men are dead — one hanged, one shot, one probably poisoned. Like the Kennedys and the Nehru-Gandhis, the Bhuttos attract disaster. This has never dulled Miss Bhutto's passion for power. Nor is she cowed by the imprisonment of her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, accused of murdering her younger brother, Murtaza, a political opponent.

That only women fight for the Bhutto legacy is a Pakistani paradox, given the state of women's rights. Fewer than 50 women contested yesterday's election; women carry less weight than men as witnesses in courts of law and proving rape is nearly impossible. Women in tribal areas — granted the vote for the first time in yesterday's poll — were warned by religious leaders not to cast a ballot.

Ghinwa Bhutto, 30, Murtaza's Lebanese-born widow, is an improbable political player. She speaks almost no Urdu, has lived in Pakistan for only three years, and knows little of the deadly world in which she is dabbling. She did not confront her sister-in-law directly in the poll. Instead she opposed Benazir's mother, Nusrat Bhutto, who has Alzheimer's disease, in the Bhutto family seat of Larkana in Sindh province.

Ghinwa Bhutto does not intend to leave Pakistan. "I belong here. My children are from here. We all either live or die here."

Benazir Bhutto's camp is probably responsible for spreading rumours that Ghinwa, a schoolteacher, was a belly-dancer in Beirut and that Murtaza was planning divorce. "I don't want to turn this into a catfight," Ghinwa says in fluent English. "We are

not in a hurry to come to power. Benazir was in a great hurry and had to compromise on many things. She twice had a chance, but she messed up."

The two women are opposites: Benazir is arrogant and imperious, while Ghinwa is placid and a listener — the ideal demeanour for a woman moving in the conservative world of feudal landlords.

The battle dismays women's activists, who want the country's few women politicians to concentrate on women's rights. Miss Bhutto did not submit any legislation on women's issues to the National Assembly in her second term of office — indeed, only one significant law was passed, the Abolition of Whipping Act. She preferred to govern through promulgating presidential ordinances, 335 of them in three years.

Hilda Saeed of the Women's Action Forum said: "I cannot think of any women politicians who have stood up for suppressed women."

Ghinwa is the only Sindh-based politician who talks to the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, based in Karachi, which represents immigrants and their descendants from India. This links her sister-in-law, who refuses to talk to the MQM, which has fought a seven-year civil war against ethnic Sindis — of which she is one. The battle of the Bhuttos has barely begun.



Benazir Bhutto: passion for power is undimmed

coming to re

Australian people's panel to debate axing monarchy

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA will move a step nearer to the declaration of a republic today when the Government announces plans for a people's convention on the vexed issue of cutting constitutional ties with Britain.

John Howard, the Prime Minister, is expected to announce a July date for the nation to elect a group of about 300 citizens who will debate the wisdom of axing Australia's formal links with the United Kingdom.

A vote in favour when the convention meets in December would pave the way to a non-binding plebiscite, followed by a national referendum on the subject.

Half the delegates would be appointed and the other half elected under a national ballot, government sources said yesterday. Serving politicians



Howard: poll pledge to hold referendum

would not be allowed to run, but major political parties would be represented, with 50 per cent of appointed places reserved for delegates from federal, state and territorial parliaments. At least 10 per cent of places would go to people aged between 18 and 25.

The announcement is expected to end speculation that the Prime Minister has gone cold on his election promise to hold a referendum on the issue of a republic.

Mr Howard has said that, if there is no "clear consensus" from the people's convention, public opinion may be tested through a non-binding plebiscite. A majority of voters in a majority of states would have to back the republican move in a referendum before constitutional links with Britain could be axed.

Republican supporters had hoped to replace the Queen with a president by the turn of the century. But the declaration of a republic before 2000 seems unlikely.

Mr Howard is likely to come under pressure to scrap the people's convention and move directly to a national plebiscite in an effort to cut costs and speed the process.

Plea for food aid by North Koreans

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

NORTH KOREA announced yesterday that it had only half the grain needed to feed its people, a move that appeared aimed at putting pressure on America to give more aid.

In an unusually frank description of its plight after two years of floods, North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said the country's 24 million people were suffering "temporary food problems".

"The nation's annual demand for grain is about 7.84 million tonnes, of which 4.82 million tonnes is needed as food," the KCNA report, monitored in Tokyo, quoted the Flood Damage Measures Committee as saying. "Last year's flood damage made the grain output drop to 2,502,000 tonnes."

Last week the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said food rations had dropped to a level four times lower than considered essential for a healthy population. Twice in the past month North Korea has put off attending a US briefing on proposed Korean peninsula peace talks pending a grain deal with America.

Last month Washington said the Minneapolis-based Cargill Inc. the world's largest private grain trading company, could export 500,000 tonnes of wheat and/or rice in what was expected to be a barter arrangement.

South Korea's Red Cross will send 700 tonnes of flour to North Korea today, the second such shipment in a week, the Red Cross said.

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Haven for Chinese dissidents

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A SECRET deal that will allow 40 Chinese dissidents sheltering in Hong Kong and their families asylum abroad before the Chinese takeover on July 1 was revealed yesterday.

According to Time magazine, eight foreign countries have "grudgingly" accepted the approximately 80 people. Britain is to take between ten and 15, but, like the other seven countries, the Hong Kong Government is unwilling to discuss the details for fear of antagonising Beijing. This reluctance may be unnecessary; it is understood

that the Chinese, who publicly demand that the Hong Kong authorities return the "criminals to justice", have warned Britain that it wants the dissidents gone before the transfer of sovereignty.

America will accept five to eight dissidents and Japan will take two. An Australian official is quoted as saying that his country has "taken our fair share and it is time for other countries, notably Britain, to do the same".

Many of the dissidents, whose status is essentially defined as political refugees who would be in danger in

their native country if they returned, came out via an underground network called Operation Yellowbird, which is still operated by some of Hong Kong's criminal secret societies, the Triads, and their confederates across the border.

Some of the top leaders in Tiananmen were smuggled out of China along this web after the killings in the summer of 1989. Last year well known dissidents and former political prisoners such as Wang Xizhe, now in America, escaped to Hong Kong via Yellowbird.

Singapore ministers sue rival

Singapore's Senior Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, and his son, Lee Hsien Loong, a Deputy Prime Minister, have jointly sued Tang Liang Hong, an opposition politician, for defamation, in a legal notice published yesterday.

Mr Tang, who is in London consulting lawyers, already

faces at least nine writs alleging defamation issued on behalf of members of the People's Action Party (PAP) since the January 2 general election in which the PAP won 81 of 83 seats.

Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, and ten other PAP members, including the Lees,

are also suing for defamation Joshua Jayaraman, leader of the Workers' Party (WP).

Yesterday's notice of the Lees' action against Mr Tang alleges that they were slandered by him three times during the campaign, in which he stood as a WP candidate. (Reuters)

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The Conservative MP, Julian Critchley, left, and the US Gulf War general, Norman Schwarzkopf, last week in the House of Commons.

PROSTATE CANCER: This year, 8,000 men will succumb to the common male cancer. Yet, unlike breast cancer, it remains controversial. Jeremy Laurance reports on controversial new recommendations

If the prostate were a female organ we would hear a lot more about it. Cancer of this small, neglected gland at the base of the bladder kills more men than the combined toll of cervical and ovarian cancer in women.

It is the second most common cancer in men, after lung cancer, claiming 8,000 lives a year and the death rate has doubled in the past 20 years. The rise is believed to be linked to our increased consumption of meat, although the mechanism is not understood.

Vegetarians are half as likely to get the disease.

Although breast cancer kills more women — almost 14,000 a year — the huge investment in developing new breast cancer treatments appears to have paid off and the death rate is falling. By contrast, deaths from prostate cancer are expected to go on rising and by 2010 it is predicted to be the biggest cancer killer of men.

Despite this rising toll, prostate cancer is little discussed and attracts attention only when it strikes a famous figure. The former French

President François Mitterrand died of the disease and the US Gulf War general, Norman Schwarzkopf, is a sufferer. Other declared patients include the comedian Michael Bentine, who died last year, and the Conservative MP Julian Critchley.

Barely £400,000 a year is spent on prostate cancer research compared with an estimated £15 million on breast cancer research. Commenting on this disparity, Julian Critchley wrote: "Could it be that women are less inclined to false modesty when talking

about breast cancer than men are about a condition that threatens and, indeed, destroys their virility?"

This week two reports reviewing research on the cancer are likely to provoke further controversy by casting doubt on the value of surgical treatments and dismissing calls for a national screening programme. The reports, conducted for the NHS by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York, will say most men diagnosed with the disease would be better off adopting a "watchful

waiting" policy to see how the disease develops rather than opting for radical treatment with the risk of serious side-effects and little prospect that it will extend life.

Screening tests for the cancer, such as that which led to a scare for comedian John Cleese (a biopsy later proved he was in the clear), detect raised levels of PSA (prostate specific antigen) in the blood, but are inaccurate — picking up only 30-40 per cent of tumours, although this can be increased when it is combined with other tests. More accurate tests are becoming available but they will still leave the patient in whom a diagnosis is made with the dilemma of what treatment to choose.

Doing nothing may often be best, but some men may feel uncomfortable about living with a cancer.

The early symptoms of prostate cancer are indistinguishable from those of benign (non-cancerous) enlargement of the prostate which affects almost all men as they grow older. The prostate gland, whose function is to produce the seminal fluid in which the sperm swim, surrounds the urethra — the tube connecting the bladder to the penis — and as it swells it may interfere with the flow of urine.

Difficulty in urinating, a weak or intermittent flow and increased frequency, especially at night, are the commonest

symptoms. A burning sensation when urinating, blood in the urine or semen and pain in the lower back, upper thighs or pelvic area may also be present. The diagnosis of cancer can be confirmed by a biopsy — taking a small sample of tissue with a needle inserted via the rectum. The central puzzle of prostate cancer is that it defies the general rule that early detection and treatment is always the best route to a cure.

Dr Jonathan Waxman, consultant oncologist at the Hammersmith Hospital, London, and director of the Prostate Cancer Charity, set up to raise funds for research, says the condition is best thought of as two diseases.

In the first, the cancer is localised within the prostate gland itself and is mostly indolent or slow-growing. It is extremely common in older men, affecting four out of five of those aged over 80. Among 50-year-olds, between one in ten and one in 20 are affected but most will have no symptoms. "There is no evidence that early treatment prolongs life," Dr Waxman says.

In the second type of the disease, the cancer is fast-growing and may have spread

to other tissues such as the bones, or is very advanced within the prostate itself. Even in these cases, treatment should be conservative, aimed at curbing symptoms rather than attempting a cure, Dr Waxman says.

"If you want treatment choose the least invasive option. Radiotherapy for local disease has far fewer side-effects than surgery," he says.

In cases where the cancer is more advanced or has spread, as revealed in bone or CT scans, treatment to suppress the action of the male hormone testosterone, on which the cancer depends, can delay progression of the disease in 80 per cent of cases. Other specialists disagree with this approach.

Roger Kirby, consultant urologist at St George's Hospital, London, says early treatment gives the best chance of stopping the disease in its tracks.

"We want to catch patients while the disease is still curable. If it has spread beyond the prostate it is incurable."

At St George's, patients are offered the choice of surgery (removal of the whole gland, known as radical prostatectomy), radiotherapy or doing nothing. "We tell them we

don't know what is best but a radical prostatectomy proves the cancer has gone, the PSA level comes right down and we can say with some certainty that they are cured."

Although watchful waiting is very cost-effective, it can damage the quality of life for some people to have the Sword of Damocles hanging over them.

Rarely, the cancer may recur after surgery, but if caught early the cure rate is 80 per cent, Mr Kirby says.

Dr Waxman claims up to 70 per cent of men undergoing radical surgery to remove the prostate are rendered impotent and 40 per cent are made incontinent. He says surgeons who dispute these figures have not questioned patients closely enough about side-effects.

Mr Kirby rejects these figures. "If I had an incontinence rate of 40 per cent I would be out of business. I have done 250 radical prostatectomies and our incontinence rates are about 3 per cent. However, the impotence rate is over 50 per cent. That is the trade-off for removing the cancer and getting a zero PSA. A lot of men in their 50s and 60s are prepared to take that choice. But I always say if you are worried, choose radiotherapy."

© The Prostate Cancer Charity, Du Cane Road, London W2 9NN. Helpline 0181-383 1948.

Screening tests for the disease are inaccurate

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CHANGING TIMES

Betrayed by my own brain

Cecil Todes, a child psychiatrist, was 38 when Parkinson's disease forced him into a tortuous, irreversible spiral of decline

One day, my watch stopped. It was a Nivada Automatic. I packed it off to the manufacturer (but their experts could find no fault). A colleague suggested trying it on the other arm. To my surprise, it worked. There was nothing wrong with my self-winding watch: there was something wrong with my arm.

"One Saturday morning in October 1970 I noticed that my left arm was in continual spasm. Soon a tremor replaced the spasm and I panicked, because I knew this was a symptom of brain tumour."

My GP said he felt certain it was early Parkinson's disease. I was so relieved at not having a terminal brain tumour that anything less was welcome.

"My search for a cure began in the autumn of 1971. I began instructing myself about the relatively new treatment with L-dopa; with prevention in mind and the current theory that large quantities of the drug might indeed retard the progression of Parkinson's disease, I stuffed myself with L-dopa in as large and many doses as I could tolerate."

Four years into the illness Dr Todes's neurologist went to America and he was unhappy with his successor.

"I disapproved of his piecemeal approach to my symptoms, his failure to treat me as a total person and his prescribing additional drugs. Then, during the course of

my treating a 13-year-old girl who had hysterical paralysis of her leg she ended up walking across the room unaided."

"I was excited by the thought that Parkinson's disease might, in my case, also have its genesis in early traumatic experience. At the age of seven, my mother died. It was the most shattering event in my life."

"By the second drug-free day, and after two sleepless nights, my wife became increasingly alarmed by my feverish excitement. On the fourth day I found myself so excessively excited and exhausted that I allowed my wife to call a trusted colleague and friend. My GP prescribed Largactil. After recovery in hospital, I gave up my bid for self-cure."

By 1988, I was ready to try a pioneering operation. It involved transplanting foetal cells into my own brain, replacing my degenerating cells with fresh ones. The transplant failed.

"I watched the disease's development from a minor disability to one which prevented me from carrying on my profession. Far from being a linear progression that one might suppose from reading

about the illness, it is more of an emotional rollercoaster. "The capacity to respond positively to medication supports the hope, each time, that one can lead an unrestricted life for part of the time. It is as if the gods breathing fire into

a knotted body free to feel and think, to show expansion and live with rhythm. Life is then worthwhile and one evades the sure knowledge of a return to emptiness. It is a let-down of magical expectation to discover that one is getting worse, not better, and, more than that, the doctor can do anything about it."

© Adapted by Anjana Ahuja from Shadow Over My Brain, by Cecil Todes, (Windrush £12.95)



What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

"People who suffer from it get fed up. Just thinking about it makes it worse. And many prescribed drugs have adverse effects. But there are qualified people who now specialise in treating this embarrassing condition painlessly. I found them, he said, at The Medical Centre in Weymouth Street, London W1N 3BA. Call them on 0171 637 2018, now!"

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Sex and the single virgin



Tara McCarthy is a rock critic and a New Yorker. At the age of 26 she has written a book in praise of virginity — her own. Quentin Letts reports

Quite the most surprising sexual disclosure for several years has just been made by a svelte, 26-year-old rock music critic from New York. Tara McCarthy, whom some of the murkier prints might call a "lonesome, long-legged lovely", has admitted to the world: I am a virgin.

Miss McCarthy, moreover, has written a slim volume on the matter, to be published in June. *Been There, Haven't Done That* — A Virgin's Memoir is its title, and the old literary sluts I know in the book trade reckon it will sell like hot buns. It is, as they rightly note, a long, long time since anyone made such a brassy declaration.

Her bold statement of virginity may finally mark a new era in which young women will realise that it is okay NOT to have sex with a bloke. Seated in her unusually neat, white-painted flat in Brooklyn, she says that since she started talking in public about her virginity she has received many messages of support from women of all ages who share her condition. "There is a silent society of virgins out there," she says briskly. "I've met loads of 'em."

The accent is Irish-American. Yes, she is a Roman Catholic, and convent-educated, but her faith was but one of many influences. She is not particularly churchy, unlike her late mother, a devout woman who died when Tara was 16. "I remember my mum telling me about sex, saying it was a thing you did with someone you loved," says Tara. Since then she has been waiting for "Mr Right".

There has been a stream of "Mr Wrongs", a gruesome, long line of them, to be frank, which is exactly what she is in her book. It goes into collar-loosening detail about some distinctly below-the-belt encounters; yet every time she remembered to say "no" at the crucial moment and is delighted to have done so.

Tara McCarthy is not the first woman to spread the message of restraint. Respectable old maids and the Archbishop of Canterbury have urged against casual sex, but this time the dispatch arrives from the front line, from a woman who strides confidently to her door, mini-skirt flapping to display a yard of slender, black-stockinged thigh. Has she a "type" of man? "Yeah — trendy." And it helps if they wear Doc Martens. What she may lack in the chest and chin departments she makes up for with wit and a beady eye. "I know I'm reasonably attractive," she says, without boasting. "I'm a very sexual person — not a prude. But it is just a personal, self-esteem issue. I'm saving myself."

The graphic detail of the book should ensure that it is read sweetly by every pubescent schoolgirl in America, but her message is the more shocking thing. Since 1963 — to take Larkin's chronology — the Western world has reared its young increasingly to believe that there is no point withstanding nature's lusts. In television, literature, the press, advertising and the family, the unrelenting message has been "go for it, kiddo — just take precautions". There have been free French letters at the school gate and sex lessons — loftily bestowed by the socialist state — from kindergarten upwards. Now, while the rest of America's young are copulating like voles, here is a sassy virgin to put the other view.

She will probably make a pot of gold. The network chat shows are clamouring at her door and the lecture tour beckons. There is also some public ribaldry to be endured. Television news bulletins, which last week reported her story (along with *The Times*), inevitably gave it the soundtrack of Madonna's tacky little song *Like A Virgin*. She lets slip that her brother has also been taking some flak from his mates.

"I decided to write the book after I went out one night with a few girlfriends in New York," she says. "We spent the evening in various bars and the men who approached us all behaved the same way. They wanted only one thing."

The lads in her local neighbourhood on New York's Staten Island, acted much the same way as the handsome, intellectual young studs she came across at Harvard and the cool, skinny rakes she found after moving to Ireland temporarily to cover Dublin's smoky rock scene. In squeeze after squeeze, she would meet a man, progress a certain distance, then go no further. Some guys, when told about her virginity, did an emotional handbrake turn and accelerated in the other direction. Others lingered, certain they were irresistible. They were not. Yet others, faced with perhaps being her first true lover and of failing to live up to the great night's expectations, legged it out of terror.

"If I'd had sex with every man who was willing to do it with me in the last

five years I'd be afraid I'd catch something from myself," she writes in the book. "Any guy who's ready to jump into the sack with me has more than likely made the same jump with any number of women before me."

One boy, on the first night she met him, asked if she was on the Pill. Nope, replied Tara. "What are we going to dooooo?" he wailed. Said she: "We're not going to have sex."

Not that the book is really anti-men. It is not our fault that the bra-burners of Sixties feminism encouraged this belief in serial swinging. Quite what the frowning feminist police will make of Tara McCarthy one shudders to think. Her book is being published by Warner, which last year released *The Rules*, a "how to catch your husband" book of romantic instruction, which the sisterhood LOATHED because it suggested the use of womanly guile. McCarthy says simply: "I have my own kind of feminism."

She claims she is guarding her purity not for any husband-to-be, but for her own spiritual satisfaction. She tries not to think too hard about the moment ahead. "I am not expecting a mind-blowing orgasm or the best sexual experience of my life. The physical pleasure of it isn't nearly so important to me as the emotional release — body and soul. When the right time comes I'll know it. For that matter you probably will, too. The earth may very well grind to a halt."

Her book will, one suspects, allow numerous women to breathe a sigh of relief at the thought that they are not alone in having yet to score, get lucky, land a lay. "There is no sane voice talking about this to 16-year-old girls at the moment," says McCarthy. "It's often coming from a religious person or someone political, but never anyone normal."

If she demanded that everyone follow her example she could be dismissed as a proselytising bore, a spoilsport in need of a good thrash in the long grasses beyond mid-wicket. But the open manner in which Tara McCarthy discusses her virginity, and the merry acknowledgement that this world takes in all sorts, and the fact that some people may want a tumble earlier, some later, marks her simply as a champion of choice; a choice that social orthodoxy and peer pressure have, in recent years, denied too many girls. May Tara's earth move, but not till the day she says yes.



Tara McCarthy wrote the book after a night out with girlfriends: "There is no sane voice talking about this to 16-year-old girls"

Bitchy, affectionate, confessional

Take a dozen women, a couple of novels, some wine — the result is a book club, says Rachel Morris

There's a seductive fashion sweeping the part of London where I live. By that peculiar law of the universe which ensures that we all do the same thing at the same time, every woman I know has joined a book club. I don't mean those competitive and ambitious organisations where top authors are invited to speak, but book clubs that are more like women's groups, where women can meet once a month to talk about books and to grow, by turns, bitchy,

defiant, affectionate and confessional.

The beauty of a book club is that anyone can start one. All you need is (top to) a dozen women, a couple of novels, a comfortable room and some bottles of wine. You should have no difficulty finding women to join because book clubs legitimise going out for women who do too much. Unable simply to slope off to the pub, we need the excuse of self-improvement. But remember that women are better at book clubs than men because the point about a book club is its intimacy and revelations. No book club I know of allows men into its meetings and if, at the end of the evening, a man should sidle in to share a cup of coffee, an embarrassed silence will fall upon the group. Going to a book club is the mental equivalent of visiting a sauna: it's hot, steamy and conducive to conversation. And, quite simply, it's something that women do better



Rachel Morris: "When the book doesn't obliterate real life we move on to other things"

than men. The book club is where I go to get my fix of female camaraderie.

A wide variety of novels works best — everything from *Woe Soyinka* to *The Horse Whisperer* via a couple of Russian classics. A different room each month is an advantage because it affords a glimpse into other women's lives. Finally, food, alcohol and something in common — like the school run — adds to the occasion because it's a common source of gossip. After that, the book club can commence.

Every meeting is different — some are sad, some wistful, some upbeat and some quarrelsome. It seems that we read novels to understand our lives because first we talk about the book, then we talk about other books and then, quite quickly, we shade off into talking about ourselves. In this way the book club is like the hairdresser or

the beauty salon — it's where women go to tell each other stories. When the book, for some reason, doesn't obliterate real life then we move straight on to other things: to work, partners, teachers, neighbours — all the themes, in fact, of a *Joanna Trollope* novel, which only goes to show that the woman knows one thing at least, and that is what interests human beings.

But sometimes the opposite occurs and the book rises above real life or at any rate lights it from a different angle, although it is not always the best books that have the most effect. *The Horse Whisperer* prompted a passionate debate between the puritans and the libertarians — which of us would leave our families, and for whom.

There is something very sweet about a book club meeting: it is like feminism

used to be in the 1970s — hugely supportive. In fact, the book club is probably the natural successor to the annual class. Book clubs strengthen friendships that already exist and create others you would never have thought possible. And the longer a book club lasts, the stronger grows the camaraderie as bereavements, illnesses and divorces are brought into the group. Quite soon you will find that the book club starts to require a certain faithfulness. Unwritten rules apply — it's OK not to finish a book but not to pretend you've finished it when you haven't. Book clubs work because women have a natural swarming instinct, but also because of that peculiar power of novels to reach the parts of the human mind that would otherwise stay cold.

© Ella and the Mothers, by Rachel Morris, will be published by Sceptre on April 17, £16.99

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Labour's no soft touch for Europe

The Shadow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, on Tory vacillation

Whether to join a single currency should be decided after a hard-headed assessment of Britain's economic interests. The decision cannot be made now, but only when the time comes and the full facts are known.

We have made it clear that any decision by a Labour government to recommend joining will need to be backed by a referendum. Many Conservatives, however, seem ready to decide now not to join, before the full facts are known. They seem even to be prepared not to consider Britain's economic interests, but to rule out joining as a matter of principle, because of overriding constitutional objections.

Yesterday, the Foreign Secretary seemed to express sympathy for this view. He said the issue of a single currency was "much wider" than matters of economic self-interest, and that the Government had "not taken the view" that Britain should join if the conditions were right. So will the Government stay out of the single currency as a matter of constitutional principle if it goes ahead, and succeeds, and if Britain suffers from being outside it? The Cabinet is close to that question.

Consider John Major's comments last week in *The New Yorker*. He said that giving control of interest rates to an independent European bank was an "argument for never going in, and one we will have to confront at some stage".

Tory Eurosceptics met this with glee, and took these remarks as a full endorsement of their position. Indeed the comments do lend themselves to that interpretation, but the Eurosceptics also know of Mr. Major's habit of sending out contradictory signals over Europe.

The Prime Minister sees his role as balancing factions, rather than winning the argument one way or the other. He has given the fatal impression that the Government's policy towards Europe is up for grabs. By responding to those who shout loudest at him, he has ensured that both sides shout very loudly indeed.

Look at the history of Mr. Major's comments on Europe. Contrast, for example, his *New Yorker* comments on monetary union with his insistence to *The Irish Times* a few years ago. He said: "There is no more important issue facing the EC than the path we choose towards economic and monetary union. We are all committed to that goal. It is no longer news."

Equally, on the issue of a single currency referendum, he has allowed himself to be blown about. During the Maastricht debates he was unequivocal: "I am not in favour of a referendum in a parliamentary democracy, and I do not propose to put one before the British people." Taking his cue from this, Ken Clarke said that "if people in the chattering classes think that my constituents are longing to have a referendum on the details of economic and monetary union, I think they are slightly

up the creek". Yet as the shouting from his own side got louder, Mr. Major was forced to concede a referendum.

His position on a multi-speed Europe has also been transformed. When he became leader, he could not have been clearer: "I don't want a two-speed Europe. I think a two-speed Europe is unequivocally bad for Europe." Within a couple of years he was brazenly championing a Europe "varying when it needs to be multi-track, multi-speed, multi-layered." Yet even now he appears to be open to offers with regard to Britain's relations with the EU. Not long ago he said we should be "at the heart of Europe, working with our partners in building the future". Now he would not dare repeat that.

These examples are of more than historical interest. If John Major is unsure of his position, it is little wonder that his confusion is shared by his Cabinet, his party, the country, and other European governments. Britain loses influence in Europe because its Prime Minister has not set out his views coherently. He is perceived as being easily influenced and as being held to ransom, so his negotiating position lacks credibility. As a result, he cannot secure the best deal for Britain.

Major may yet rule out monetary union on principle

The recent indications of a more sceptical line should be seen not as a declaration of a new policy, but as the latest in a seemingly endless stream of contradictory statements. They will no doubt be balanced at some later stage by some carefully chosen Europhile remarks, as when, a few months ago, Mr. Major described the Eurosceptics as living in "cloud-cuckoo-land". Or perhaps the Eurosceptics demanding withdrawal will eventually get the upper hand.

There has been much talk about Europe waiting for Labour. Tories have been quick to argue that this is evidence that Europe believes we are a soft touch. This is fanciful. We will be prepared to use our veto on strategic issues if it is in the national interest, but that we will not pursue isolation as a policy. On the single currency, we will act according to British economic interests and the agreement of the people expressed in a referendum.

Yet it is true that many European governments are fed up with John Major's equivocations and self-contradictions over the single currency and everything else. The Tories' disarray on the issue has been thrown into stark relief by the revelation that Central Office has approved 12 different wordings of government policy for use in Tory candidates' personal manifestos. Little wonder that Britain's negotiating position in Europe is weak, vacillating and ineffective. Europe wants a strong Britain, capable of leading and shaping the debate, capable of talking on equal terms to the other leading players, capable of sticking to its guns. Under Labour, that is what Europe will get.



SPOT THE BALL COMPETITION

Farewell superwoman

No one said balancing careers and children was going to be easy

How dare they? How dare they pull out the emotional stops and cause floods of estrogen tears by calling that damned programme "Missing Mum"? Did *Panorama* deliberately set out to undermine the economy this morning by upsetting huge swathes of the workforce? Did they mean to cause a chain of car-park accidents, design flaws, misdiagnoses, futile rows, orders faxed in error to Kinlochbervie and cups of coffee spilt into the innards of the photocopies? Is the BBC a licensed Far Boy with a mission to make women's flesh creep? Was the whole exercise the result of a canteen bet on who could extrapolate most widely from the GCSE results of a handful of teenagers in Barking and Dagenham? Or was it just pure mischief to inspire headlines like the one saying "Can mothers work full-time without sacrificing their children's future?" (This is what Latinists call a *Nam* question, one which expects the answer no. Or, to put it in the full form: "No, you selfish bitches, get back to the kitchen!")

Well, that's what TV journalism is all about, bless its excitable little heart. You can't think about monetary union all the time, and it was understandable that *Panorama* should seize joyfully upon the theory that children with two working parents do worse at school than those whose mothers work part-time. This conclusion was rather shakily based on a 600-strong survey in east London which showed that the children of full-time working mothers got worse GCSEs than those of part-timers. I say shakily, not only because there is more to life than GCSE but because it also transpired — oops! — that the children of mothers at home full-time did even worse. This was brushed aside by the researchers on the grounds that those mothers were poor and badly educated, and so a bit hopeless anyway.

The general line of the argument — that women damage their children educationally as well as emotionally by going to work, even when they are at secondary school — was carried to the media. Daytime TV shows can now whip up studio arguments between overachieving power mums in Nicola Horlick suits and saintly homebodies in soft fluffy sweaters, with the obligatory rent-a-mouth child psychologist to add intellectual credibility. Defensive women will be asked to justify the daily structure of

their lives in a way no man would tolerate for a minute. Much hay will be made by those strangely irritating headmasters who like to get their names in the papers by pontificating about "middle-class deprivation" and citing mothers with high-powered jobs (ie, those who earn more than headmasters) as the sole reason why 15-year-olds mysteriously lose interest in what their very wonderful schools have to offer.

I refuse to enlist. Can't fight, won't fight. Politicians would do well to keep out of it too. It is not their business. The only thing to say to government is this: if you want to use public policy for children's good, then don't waste time lecturing. Instead on the unarguable needs of the very worst-off. Put money and imagination into helping the most deprived and ignorant and bewildered children: give them smaller classes, places to do homework, libraries, friendly guides and mentors to replace lousy parents. Give them psychiatric services, creative outlets, fresh air, safe clubs, guidance, hope. That should keep you out of mischief for a few decades while the rest of us get on with life.

Which, for all parents, is one long compromise. Some mothers and fathers, I grant you, are selfish and insensitive enough to prize their own enjoyment and status above their children. Some are materialists who think you can buy anything. Some children are neglected in favour of work, just as others are neglected in favour of social life or shopping, booze or drugs.

Most parents, however, do better than that. They try to be thoughtful and unselfish, and they worry about their children. Some successfully manage two careers and a decent family life. It is not painless: there are unsung heroines (even a few heroes) who put their dearest ambitions on the back burner at some stage because they see that their children need another kind of support. They turn down the demanding promo-

tion, the glitzy offer, the travelling brief or departmental responsibility. What Americans call the "mommy track" is a daily reality in thousands of women's lives. It is not much discussed, just ruefully acknowledged.

Anybody with a wide acquaintance among women will have seen a pattern emerging in many different trades. Let us assume that you are not at the bottom of the financial heap, and can lower your joint earnings without actually losing your home. The pattern goes like this: you have babies and rapidly shed juvenile illusions about superwomanhood.

After bruising encounters with the taxing world of childcare, you decide to ease the pressure. You work part-time, or freelance in your own trade if you are lucky, or do a dead-end but flexible job if you aren't. There are endless surprising variations on this: did you know that in the mid 1980s functions at 10 Downing Street were often caused for by two professional women from Suffolk with six small children and no money between them? They were so efficient that never once did a visiting statesman break a tooth on a bit of Lego in his vol-au-vent. When Margaret Thatcher fell, one caterer's small boy wanted to go on sending her minipizzas, such was his vicious loyalty.

There are women at home with sewing machines, computers, icing-bags, galley-proof, telephones. Some do crumby jobs because that is all they can get, but others are movers and shakers: major publicity campaigns for new books are often handled from messy front rooms with babies under the table, and high-profile national talking-points are raised in radio documentaries produced by job-sharing women who scrape farex from highchairs while negotiating hot interviews on the phone. Devilishly ingenious, these mothers.

As children grow, some of these women ease back into jobs and schoolchildren accept that just as they

have their daily encounter with a workplace, so does Mum. The balance is still very tricky: there are hard decisions, and professional pride and satisfaction sometimes find themselves outbraked by night terrors or bullying, illness or GCSE pressure. These decisions are private, intimate matters and they vary from one family to the next. So do children: some can have two busy working parents and a patchwork of after-school arrangements and clubs and rather enjoy the sociable variety of it all. They do well at school, but by the age of 11 would be appalled by too much mothering, and still more appalled at constant interference in their school life.

Other children genuinely need the peace and stability of a daily early tea at home for years; they cannot flourish without hours of soothing, supportive conversation with at least one parent, who is also closely in touch with their teachers and their friends' mothers. If you happen to have produced one of these, then you have a stark choice. Either you sideline your child's obvious needs and hope it doesn't do too much damage in the long run; or you give a fatalistic, grimacing shrug and arrange for at least one parent to be more accessible, for more hours, all the way up to A level. It is just one of those damn things. There is absolutely no way you can arrange in advance to have a naturally cheerful and independent child, and any childcare guru who insists that you can is lying. Luckily, most children fall somewhere between the two extremes, and most parents adapt. More or less.

A mother's career story, sometimes a father's too, is an everyday story of conflicting duties, compromise with fate, odd lucky breaks and frustrating missed chances. But then, so is life itself. Moral choices are everywhere, every day. Parent or not, you can opt to be self-centred and insensitive to the suffering of those who depend on you. Or you can try to do your best, and have the humour and humility to recognise a stupid cruel situation when you find your family trapped by one. With luck you have the cunning to wriggle out of it and make everybody slightly happier. So cheer up, sister. Stop hanging your head on the coffee machine and summon up a watery smile. Do what you judge best. As long as you are honest in the judging, things will probably be all right.

Libby Purves

Hello girls

AFTER more than 250 years, the Prince of Wales's former prep school, Cheam Hawtrey near Newbury in Berkshire, is to become co-educational in September. The news caused a frisson of chaffing excitement among its 160 boys, although some admitted to apprehension.

Prince Charles regarded Cheam, which merged with Hawtrey school in Wiltshire two years ago, as a Dickensian nightmare. He is likely to regard the decision to take girls as an improvement. The headmaster, Christopher Evers, says from the splendid Edwardian manor house that he believes the change will be hugely successful. "It is all very exciting. But if any parents want to place their daughters here they must realise that to begin with they will be in a minority."

Boys expressed concern that girls might dilute their prowess on the playing fields, but Evers claims that most of them took the news like men. "One said he wouldn't mind if the girls were the same age," he said, adding that not all parents or indeed governors regard piglets with the same equanimity.

● *Humphrey the Downing Street cat* was moulting profusely in the Cabinet Office waiting-room yesterday. Is he coming out in sympathy with Tony Blair?

The creeps

IN RECOGNITION of the tensa-tens interviewing techniques of Radio 4's *Today* programme hosts.



"Do you regret calling them Fifi and Eufia?"

James Naughtie and John Humphrys, London Zoo has named two cockroaches in their honour.

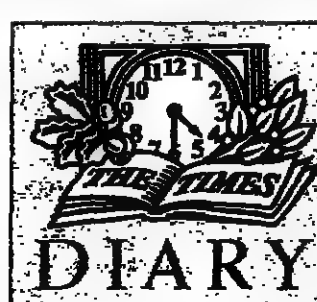
The reviled insects (*Periplaneta americana*) appeared on the show last week alongside the Secretary of State for Agriculture, Douglas Hogg, to illustrate their potential use as spies down inaccessible crevasses, with mini-cameras strapped to their backs.

"They arrived when I was interviewing the Secretary of State, looking quite frisky in their sand-wich box," recalls Humphrys, "but while Hogg was talking, one of them flipped over on its back, wiggling its legs in the air as if it was about to expire." Apparently Hogg was unimpressed by his ugly audience when it was pointed out: "You should try sitting in Cabinet," he said.

Sickening

BUMPED OUT of his frontline position as spokesman-in-chief for the Referendum Party, Patrick "PR" Robertson yesterday took the day off work with food poisoning. Colleagues say he was close to tears after the appointment of Bernard Shrimley, an old newspaper hand, as his successor.

Yesterday, he was said to be skulking round the Pinlicko flat that he shares with Robin Birley,



Sir James Goldsmith's stepson, who last week stood down as the party's candidate in Kensington and Chelsea. Definitely time for the Robertson dry Martini. Modest to the last, he claims to make the best in London.

I spy: you too?

SPYING is in fashion again at Cambridge, according to a recent Spy Forum addressed by Professor Christopher Andrew, a history don at Corpus Christi, and by Oleg Gordievsky, the former double agent.

"More and more Russians are coming to study in England, and they prefer to come to the famous places," says Gordievsky. "Many of them are talent-spotting for the KGB and its successors in the republics."

"The new Director of the CIA, Tony Lake," Andrew goes on, "was at Trinity, as were Burgess, Blunt, Philby and Cairncross. Cambridge is so even-handed it produces the best spies for everyone."

According to Andrew, many older dons who passed on information during the Cold War still prefer to use their old KGB communications kit rather than faxes or e-mail when reminiscing with their old comrades.

"Take a look at Oxford," adds Andrew cryptically. "There is that only semi-explained matter of Norman Stone's departure to his Chair of Eternal Truth, or whatever it is, in Turkey. Interesting, isn't it?"

● *Smoke emission rules* mean that bottles of favourite alcoholic drinks can no longer be placed in coffins due for cremation. Also out are books, records, tins of paint (over my head, that one), leather jackets and crash helmets. Computerised cremators can tell whether fume emission regulations are being breached, which means the dead must go on their way alone.

Hay fever

THERE was audible relief in the box office of the Haymarket Theatre last night after Jessica Lange



Jessica: box-office boon

announced her recovery from the flu which kept her from both Saturday performances of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Receipts fell dramatically, but a voice at the stage door was cautious about letting on: "Members of the audience were offered alternative dates, and some accepted. But you have no need to know how many."

P.H.S

Major's May Day lifeline

Woodrow Wyatt is scornful of March madness

Whatever happens at the Wirral by-election on February 27, the Tories must stick to May 1 to ensure a reasonable prospect of winning the general election. March would be madness. April is the month when the Budget tax cuts begin to fructify in voters' pockets, cheering them up. The harsh and depressing winter will be behind us. Some sunshine, warmth and spring flowers should transform irritation with the Government into a feeling that life is not so bad, so why risk a change which could make it rather worse?

Last Friday Tony Blair spoke to 2,500 students at a sixth-formers conference — an ideal audience. He was started by 17-year-old William Goodhand: "We hear him going on and on about what terrible things the Conservatives have done to education and the health service and what an unfair society they have created. But he cannot say he is going to create a just society and then follow Conservative spending plans for the first two years of his government. It just does not add up." Others accused Mr Blair of making false pledges to gain power. He cannot be sure of the young.

Peter Kellner, whose judgment I respect, examined in last Sunday's *Observer* the relationship between how governments got on at the final by-elections before dissolution and their subsequent fortunes. Labour's victory in 1994 was preceded by a by-election in which the Tories fell by 12.5 per cent. When Heath won in 1970, Labour's drop in the preceding by-election was 13.2 per cent. Labour's return in 1974 followed a Tory fall of 15.9 per cent in the preceding by-election. Margaret Thatcher's win in 1979 followed a decline of 28.1 per cent in Labour's vote in previous by-elections.

The percentage drop in the Conservative Government's share in by-elections preceding their victories was 8.5, 6.6 and 6.3 respectively. If Labour wins Wirral by 3,000 votes or fewer, the Tories will be looking good — their share of the vote would have fallen by only 6 to 10 points. A Labour win by 5,000 votes or more would be grim for the Tories, but not necessarily conclusive. For the first time, Europe could be a decisive factor. The public's previous indifference has been jolted by alarm that we may be pushed down an irreversible slide into a federal united states of Europe.

A new awareness is evident among the public that the EU, with its rising unemployment and dropping economies, is not a sensible place to lose our thousand years of independence. Germany's attempt to bully us out of bidding for the 2006 World Cup strengthens that conviction. This is not xenophobia, nor a wish for a two-tier or a two-speed Europe. We wish them well in whatever economic or political combinations they may assemble, but they are going in a different direction. They have chosen the social chapter, which, with all its welfare burdens on employers and concessions to trade unions, has increased their production costs. Britain is not the biggest, but it is now in many ways the strongest economic power in Europe.

Reckless of the incipient harm, Labour has pledged to join the social chapter and believes that joining a single currency is inevitable at some point. In the Commons on January 23, Mr Major said that "on the information currently available, it is very unlikely that the single currency will proceed safely on January 1, 1999, and that if it did proceed without reliable convergence, we would not be part of it". None of our partners can meet the convergence requirements without funding, and most cannot achieve even a semblance by fudging.

Pulled down by Italy, Spain and Greece, the euro is likely to be much weaker than the pound. A supposed gain for the EU is the certainty of no variation in the exchange rate for contracts in euros. That is no help to British exporters or importers. They already hedge against variations in exchange rates in Europe or elsewhere. A strong pound has two supreme advantages: the need for discipline in keeping costs down, and cheaper raw materials from abroad. Incidentally, our adverse current account deficit with the EU and Western Europe has steadily increased to £21 billion in 1995. Our surplus comes from the rest of the world — the US, the old Commonwealth, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Our EU partners need us more than we need them, giving us a strong hand in any treaty renegotiation.

That financial genius George Soros said last weekend at Davos: "You can't have a common currency without a common fiscal policy." Not only interest rates, but also taxation must be forced to converge in all the countries which join the European monetary union. So the Chancellor's annual Budget would be made not in Whitehall, but by the European central bank — dominated by Germany. The vital difference between the British parties is the willingness of Labour to contemplate subjugation in all matters of finance and taxation to European authorities. The Tories need to hang away vigorously explaining this clearly and simply before May Day.



THE COOK CURRENCY

Labour remains more likely to lead Britain into EMU

As the election draws near, Labour politicians are finding their European pronouncements subject to the same hard scrutiny that the Conservatives have long had to endure. The smallest hint is interpreted not as trimming to the wind but a change of course. So it was that Robin Cook's remarks on Sunday were pored over yesterday for signs of a shift in the party's position on a single currency.

One newspaper portrayed them as "anti-EMU", but most decided that the Shadow Foreign Secretary had increased the chances of a Labour government joining in a second wave. "If it goes ahead and it succeeds," said Mr Cook, "then you cannot stay out. It would take a very sober and serious calculation to stay out beyond 2002." This statement overshadowed his more sceptical comments about winning allies against the Franco-German domination of the EU.

Few believe that a new Labour government would take Britain into a single currency in 1999. Even if Labour leaders thought this desirable (and many do not), the legislation and argument needed, not to speak of the referendum, could destroy a new administration. There is little political gain to be had; and, whatever Gordon Brown may hope, much to be lost.

But voters who are thinking of a switch to Labour still need reassurance that their decision to give the Opposition a five-year chance will not lead to irreversible actions in that period. Is it now more likely that Labour would sign up to the single currency during the next Parliament than that the Conservatives would? Neither party is prepared to oppose EMU in principle. Both claim to be ready to make the judgment on pragmatic grounds. Those grounds could change in unpredictable ways between 1999 and 2002.

Both parties have, over recent years, become less enamoured of the single currency project. Mr Cook has added to the Maastricht criteria other indicators such as

levels of unemployment, industrial output, investment, productivity and export performance. This should enable him to say, closer to 1999, that the necessary convergence has not been achieved. The Conservatives, meanwhile, have pointed to the fudging of other countries' statistics as a good reason for not joining in the first wave.

Just as the present Cabinet plays host to divergent views on Europe, so does the Shadow Cabinet. Mr Cook, John Prescott and Jack Straw are all sceptical; Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is as enthusiastic as Kenneth Clarke. Mr Cook's comments could be seen as an attempt at a rapprochement with Mr Brown, with whom he has frosty relations. Tony Blair, who is as hard to pin down as John Major, does not want to see the sort of bickering over Europe among his lieutenants that the Prime Minister regularly suffers.

If a Labour government decided to join in 2002, the electorate would have a double-lock on its actions. First there would have to be a referendum. And secondly, there would almost certainly be a general election. After that election it would still be possible, albeit expensive, for a new government to extricate the country from EMU.

It would be desirable if voters were to know better what the chances were of EMU membership under each party. Instead, they hear the same equivocations from Labour as they do from the Tories. They can, however, look at the likely complexion of the parliamentary parties. Even if the party leaderships are similarly diverse in their views, the Conservative parliamentary party is more instinctively hostile to EMU than Labour. Mr Blair is a tougher leader than Mr Major and Labour's European policy may thus not be as dangerous as the red-weeping lion in the new Conservative advertisement seems to believe. But, on balance, Labour is still more likely to lead Britain into EMU.

MILOSEVIC AND FRIENDS

The world must speak to Belgrade with one voice

With water-cannon, tear-gas and baton charges that have injured hundreds of peaceful Serbian protesters, Slobodan Milosevic has turned to his feared paramilitary police — the last organ of authority on which he believes he can rely — to manufacture a breakdown in public order. His purpose is presumably to give himself a pretext for declaring a state of emergency, which would enable him to ignore any court order reinstating the opposition-local-election victories in Belgrade and other Serbian centres which he has refused to respect.

This abuse of police power is just what student and opposition leaders have feared from the start, 78 days ago, of their remarkable vigil for democracy; and for the first time, events may be slipping beyond their control. A few of the thousands of demonstrators have finally lost patience and hit back with stones and bottles. That plays Mr Milosevic's game. Overnight, the situation in Serbia has become dangerous.

From Prague to London, European governments have reacted with indignation and anxiety. As Malcolm Rifkind said yesterday, violence will do nothing to solve the crisis in Serbia. But the only basis for political dialogue is for Mr Milosevic to cede the electoral ground first — if not on principle, which is not a word in his vocabulary, then on the pragmatic ground that using force to override inconvenient voting results merely stacks up more trouble to come. At present, he seems not to care about the long term, so long as he can suppress the symptoms of disgust with his rule for a few days or weeks.

It only takes 50,000 unarmed paramilitaries to stop 500,000 armed marchers. Yet Mr Milosevic is gambling with a weak hand. The army is uneasy, some of his own

ministers have publicly denounced him — without his daring to sack them as he would once have done — and the Orthodox Church, which has sided emphatically with the protesters, is challenging the police to behave as guardians of order and not of a regime "sinking into ignorance".

What the West can do is to underline its support for democracy, as France is doing by extending recognition to the Zajedno opposition coalition and inviting its leaders to Paris, and to emphasise in deed as well as word that Mr Milosevic is returning Serbia to international isolation.

The greater co-ordination of Western policies towards Serbia, the better. At government-to-government level, a serious effort is being made. But in Britain's case, the impact of official firmness is weakened by the business involvement with Mr Milosevic of Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, and of Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, who was the Foreign Office representative at the Dayton talks.

Of his success in securing for NatWest Markets, his part-time employer, a contract worth £10 million to organise the privatisation of Serbia's telecommunications, Mr Hurd airily says that he "can't do anything about the political side" while claiming that NatWest is justified in making money out of promoting market liberalisation in Serbia. Neither statement bears scrutiny. As to political influence, Mr Hurd knows that he is seen in Belgrade as a link with government. And he should surely have learnt by now that Mr Milosevic is a man whose dedication to free markets goes no deeper than the calculation that selling off Serbia's only profitable state enterprise will replenish the cashflow he needs to pay his riot police.

FOUL PLAY

England deserve a level playing field for the World Cup

They thought it was all over. It is not now. Football's Eurocrats may have imagined they could deliver the World Cup into German hands with all the insouciant ease of a Beckenbauer back-pass to an expectant keeper; but the Football Association is, rightly, determined to stand in the way. Uefa is wrong to insist that Germany should automatically be Europe's nominee as host of the 2006 World Cup. Uefa's officers may have thought they had a private understanding to favour Germany. If so they should recognise that the right to host football's premier tournament should be won, like the trophy itself, in open competition.

The choice of host nation for the 2006 World Cup will rest with the sport's world governing body, Fifa. The 2002 tournament will take place in Japan and South Korea. The next host after that is likely to be European and the support of Uefa, the game's European authority, will be influential in securing the nomination. Uefa claims that it has been committed to backing Germany since 1995. To decide 11 years in advance of the tournament that only one European country was worthy of the honour of hosting it is foolish in itself. To refuse to reconsider, when circumstances have changed, is folly on stilts.

England could not, realistically, have indicated a willingness to host the World Cup before 1996. The nature and persistence of England's hooligan problem, which had

caused English club teams to be banned from European competitions, had left lingering doubts about the wisdom of staging a major tournament on English soil. Those doubts did not evaporate until after the success of Euro 96. That general tournament raised more than just England's standing: it earned more than £60 million for Uefa.

But, as with the EU, so with Uefa. A net contribution to coffers has not bought influence. Instead, the bureaucracy has protected its own. Gerhard Aigner, Uefa's general secretary, is German, as is the vice-president and treasurer, Egidius Braun. They are determined that Germany alone will be Europe's candidate for 2006 and refuse to consider England. Their patriotism is admirable. Their methods are not.

England has the stadiums, the lottery funding and the enthusiasm to host a superb World Cup. Even on the Buggins' turn basis by which all too many international decisions are made, England has the first claim. Of the European countries with the capacity to host a 32-nation tournament, England has been denied the honour the longest. It may be that other nations, outside Europe, will better deserve the privilege of hosting the 2006 Cup. But whatever decision is reached it should be after an open assessment of all the candidates. Uefa should not be allowed to elbow England off the field before the world has had a chance to judge its fitness. The FA is right to cry foul.

Nurses' pay levels 'dispiritingly low'

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing

Sir, As the Cabinet prepares to decide the recommendations of the nurses' pay review body more than half a million nurses are hoping for an end to five years of dispiritingly low pay awards.

Nurses are only too aware of the enormous financial pressures on the health service and the rumoured award of 3.3 per cent will be acceptable to them. What will not be acceptable is if the award is introduced in stages, making it almost valueless.

Again to treat nurses unfairly at a time of serious nursing shortages, with a general election only weeks away, is a high risk strategy for this Government and for any future one. A quarter of all nurses will have reached retirement age by the year 2000 and the number of nursing students qualifying has dropped by 39 per cent since 1988.

Everyone speaks of nurses in the NHS as a national asset. But this asset is in real danger of dwindling away unless politicians have the courage and foresight to pay this year's pay award to nurses in full.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTINE HANCOCK,
General Secretary,
Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, W1,
February 3.

Children's dental care

From Professor M. E. J. Curzon and Dr B. Hunter

Sir, The death of a child from septicæmia (infective endocarditis) (Medical Briefing, January 28) highlights a growing problem in the two areas of paediatrics and paediatric dentistry.

As more and more children who are born with heart defects are successfully treated by paediatric cardiologists, so the number of children at risk of subsequent infective endocarditis grows. Each year a number of these children die as a result of dental disease giving rise, as in the case reported, to septicæmia.

The dental care of these children is often inadequate because of a serious shortage of specialist paediatric dentists. The few consultants in this field are almost entirely confined to dental teaching hospitals, where they work closely with their paediatricians to ensure that the dental care for children with heart defects is well controlled.

Unfortunately there is great resistance in most general hospitals to appointing paediatric dental consultants. Money, facilities and the great pressure on resources are obviously main factors. More important is a lack of awareness of what these consultants can achieve.

A team approach between paediatricians and paediatric dentists helps to prevent tragedies such as that reported by Dr Stratford.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. J. CURZON,
(Consultant in paediatric dentistry,
Leeds Dental Institute),
BRUCE HUNTER
(Consultant in paediatric dentistry,
University of Wales Dental Hospital
NHS Trust, Cardiff),
Leeds Dental Institute,
Clarendon Way, Leeds,
January 28.

On the register

From the President of the British Psychological Society

Sir, It is good to see the chiropractors following the osteopaths into having a statutory registration council (report, January 29). This means that not only will their therapies be more widely available but also that the public will be protected from the professionally incompetent.

I look forward to the day when the profession of psychology similarly falls under the control of legislation. Many MPs, from all parties, would support legislation to register psychologists and protect the public, but the Government has refused to give parliamentary time.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET McALLISTER,
President,
The British Psychological Society,
St Andrews House,
48 Princess Road East, Leicester.

Cold comfort

From Professor Ged Martin

Sir, In times of crisis, Conservatives turn to Disraeli for inspiration. Perhaps they may draw comfort from the explanation that he gave, when Leader of the Opposition in 1854, of his reluctance to move against the crumbling coalition Government of Lord Aberdeen:

I will not propose a vote of no confidence in men who prove to me every half hour that they have no confidence in each other.

I remain, etc.
GED MARTIN,
103 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh.
February 3.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5045.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Toyota effect on inward investment

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, Toyota's concern about its investment in the UK if we are outside EMU (letters, February 1) goes to the heart of the current debate about Europe.

If the Conservatives are re-elected, we are as likely to join a single currency in the foreseeable future as the Spice Girls are to enter a nunnery.

Outside a single currency area, whose first members will be designated early next year, British exports will be at risk. The comparison with Nafta made by Sir Alan Walters (letter, January 31) is misleading. Nafta is a free trade area, made up of an economic giant and two titillers. The European Union consists of 15 member states, most of which want a politically integrated economic and social union and will resist any attempt by one member to profit by not undertaking the deeper obligations assumed by the others.

If any factor — a sterling devaluation forced by speculation, low wages (social dumping), or lower taxes (fiscal dumping) — is seen by the inner group to give Britain an unfair competitive advantage in a single market, there will be pressure for action against its exports. Britain would then effectively be out of the European Union.

It is not just Toyota which has perceived this. On January 16 Jürgen Gehrels, the chief executive of Siemens UK, said publicly that his

company would never have committed itself to investing up to £1.1 billion in a microchip plant on north Tyneside if it had realised that the UK might be out of a single European currency.

Peter Riddell is right ("Renegotiation means out", January 27). Either Britain goes forward with its partners to build a politically integrated, economic union or it is outside. There is no middle course. Talk about "renegotiating our terms of entry", or "retaining our sovereignty", or crying from the sidelines "You rotters are fudging the criteria", is shouting in the wind.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN,
194B Avenue de Tervuren,
1150 Brussels,
February 1.

From Professor Emeritus
the Reverend W. H. C. Frend, FBA

Sir, Dr John Campbell (letter, January 28) should not think that all those who doubt the wisdom of needing closer contact with Europe through joining the single currency are "fearful, introverted and increasingly insular". They are, simply, fed up.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM H. C. FREND,
The Clerks Cottage,
Little Wilbraham, Cambridge,
January 28.

Robin Hood approach

From Mr Hugh Mellor

Sir, The Bishop of Liverpool speaks for many of us (report, January 28; letter, January 30) when he criticises the politicians for focusing the election on "comfortable Britain", leaving the vulnerable and needy without a voice. They, and others who wish to see positive, clear and radical proposals for dealing with gross and long-running social injustice, find themselves without any way of indicating this by their voting behaviour.

The additional wealth in our society over the past 20 years has gone mostly to those who were already the richest, leaving the poorest tenth actually poorer on average in real terms. Are the parties right to assume, therefore, that the bottom tenth do not count in electoral mathematics and "comfortable Britain" will settle the election?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH W. MELLOR,
Lark Rise,
Risborough Road, Great Kimble,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
January 30.

Private lives

From Mr David R. Barclay

Sir, The Listener column in *The Times* (Media and Marketing) of January 15 referred to "the secretive Barclay brothers", implying that we have something to hide.

The fact that my brother and I do not seek personal publicity for ourselves, or for what we do, nor do we socialise or attend cocktail jamborées and get ourselves photographed in the popular press, is no reason to make us targets of inventive journalism.

Our objection was not that the BBC and John Sweeney tried to visit the island of Brecon; it was the way in which they achieved their objective. They gained access to the island by ignoring our refusal to allow them access and then by purporting to have an appointment to meet my brother and me — a gross misrepresentation.

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission clearly and unequivocally upheld our complaint that John Sweeney and the BBC unlawfully

Welfare of the family

From the Director of Family and Youth Concern

Sir, The welfare of the family is now more prominent in political debate than ever before. Those of us who have been working in this field for many years are gratified that all political parties now speak of the decline of the family as a serious problem which needs to be addressed. However, pious platitudes about family life seldom translate into useful and coherent policy initiatives.

It would very much help the public if politicians would clarify what they mean by the word "family". Do they mean the time-honoured family based on marriage? If so, in the event of winning the next general election, are they prepared to reverse the current discrimination against the one-earner, two-parent family which exists throughout the tax and benefits system?

Yours sincerely,
VALERIE RICHES, Director,
Family and Youth Concern,
322 Woodstock Road, Oxford,
January 29.

gained access to private property and the BBC were not persuaded that the BBC's case rested on more than a wish to provide an entertaining programme for a curious public, but was completely devoid of any true public interest.

The freedom of the press is essential for the democracy of this country — those in public office should be accountable and those who seek publicity should not complain if it does not suit their expectations — but the invasion of privacy through inventive and dishonest journalism is unacceptable. It is irresponsible for editors to accept behaviour which, if allowed to continue, will bring about a restriction by law of the freedom of the press.

In a democracy, it is a fundamental right to choose one's own private life and the way one chooses to live it.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID R. BARCLAY,
Le Montaigne,
7 Avenue de Grande Bretagne,
Monte Carlo, MC 98000 Monaco,
February 3.

North West a loser

From the Leader of Liverpool City Council

Sir, The announcement late last year that the lottery funding for the National Stadium would be allocated to Wembley rather than Manchester (report, December 18) was the latest in a long line of disappointments for the North West region. It followed closely a decision by the National Lottery Charities Board to allocate to this region only £220,000 of the £3.6 million awarded in December to "medical and social research charities".

When the National Lottery was established, some two years ago, the North West suffered from its impact on the pools industry, for many years a major source of employment, particularly in Liverpool. To appease the protests, assurances were given that this would be taken into account over a period of time, and that the region could expect to be compensated in terms of awards to local charities and projects.

It would appear, however, that in reality the North West is being allocated considerably less lottery funding per head of population than the rest of the country. This would perhaps not matter unduly if the region was one that already had high living standards and an environment conducive to good health and a satisfactory quality of life. But this, sadly, is not the case.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK PRENDERGAST,
Leader, Liverpool City Council,
PO Box 88, Municipal Buildings,
Dale Street, Liverpool,
February 2.

War grave in Libya

From Mr Desmond J. Duffy

Sir, Five years ago (at the age of 68) I visited my brother's grave at Tobruk, and the area where he met his death. Unlike Mrs Daisy Norris, who says she experienced difficulties with the Libyans — both official and civil — on her visit to her first husband's grave there (report, January 21; letter, January 27), everyone I met was interested in my reason for being in Libya and wished to help.

I had some very good help from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and I arranged accommodation in Cairo near the Libyan Embassy, where I obtained a visa within hours of my arrival. I was also advised by the embassy of a new coach service between Cairo and Tripoli, which agreed to make an unscheduled stop at Tobruk. I turned up, unannounced, at a very comfortable hotel there after 9pm, was made very welcome and had a glorious meal.

When I tried to visit the area of the action where my brother died I discovered it was in a military zone. I approached the senior officer in charge who not only provided transport and a local guide, but afterwards had me join him and his aide at a sumptuous lunch: true Arab hospitality.

I was determined to visit the El Alamein war cemetery on my way back to Cairo and actually hitch-hiked for part of that journey, without encountering any problems.

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND J. DUFFY,
122 Radnor Avenue,
Welling, Kent,
January 27.

Pilgrim's progress in modern times

From the Dean of Norwich

Sir, Grateful as the organisers are for the excellent publicity you have given to the Pilgrimage of Grace (report, January 25), we would like to correct the impression given by your headline, which described it as "multi-faith".

Certainly in those places where the other great faiths are represented we hope that the pilgrims will encounter, and be in dialogue with, people of different faith communities. A more accurate description of the pilgrimage, however, would be ecumenical. The inclusion of all ecumenical organisations in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales has always been one of the main emphases of the celebrations.

Although, as you suggest, we are including rail travel within the itinerary, the pilgrims will walk part of the journey every day. We hope that the variety of modes of transport will be part of the attraction for contemporary pilgrims, who would not be able to spare six weeks away from work.

We hope that the opportunities provided by this great year of celebration will offer all the people of our four countries and of mainland Europe a real chance to see the significance of the 7th-century Christian missions to these islands. We hope in that sense that everyone who joins us will feel a real sense of "pilgrims' progress".

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN PLATTEN
(Chairman, Pilgrims Way),
The Deanery, Norwich, Norfolk,
January 29.

From Mrs E. Graham

Sir, Whithorn, which you mention in your report, well deserves its inclusion in the western route of the Pilgrimage of Grace.

As the Venerable Bede describes in his account of the conversion of the northern Picts by Columba, the southern Picts had "long before as the story goes, been converted to Christianity by the preaching of Ninia or Nihlan". Ninian's contacts with Whithorn have traditionally been dated from 397 AD and, although he is a shadowy figure, the recent excavations here have produced evidence of an early Christian settlement at least as early as the 5th century.

Thus Whithorn has been known as the "cradle of Christianity" in Scotland. Before the Reformation the town was a centre for pilgrimages, its many visitors including the kings and queens of Scotland. This year it will welcome many more.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH GRAHAM,
Mansefield,
St John Street, Whithorn,
Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire,
February 1.

Defence of the Swiss

From Mr Hugh Norwood

Sir, Criticism of Switzerland for doing "a great deal of profitable business with Nazi Germany" (leading article, January 28) is unwarranted. Of course Switzerland traded with Germany during the war. The country could scarcely do otherwise, as it was surrounded by Nazi and Fascist states. Nonetheless, Switzerland took in thousands of refugees and was the only mainland European country to maintain its democratic way of life.

I suggest that the verdict of history will concur with the contemporary judgment of Winston Churchill who, on December 3, 1944, wrote:

Of all the neutrals, Switzerland has the greatest right to distinction. She has been the sole international force linking the badly Sundered nations and ourselves. . . . She has been a democratic State, standing for freedom in self-defence amongst her mountains, and in thought, in spite of race, largely on our side, quoted by Martin Gilbert, *Winston S. Churchill*, vol 7, p1028.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH NORWOOD,
6 Church Row, St Mary's Square,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
January 28.

Channel 4 stakes

From Ms Lisa Forgan

Sir, It was kind of you to enter me for the Michael Grade stakes ("The Channel 4 Handicap", Media, January 29) but I am afraid you have got the wrong race.

Channel 4's famous "remit" really only means one thing: a requirement for continuous innovation, new blood, new thinking and taking risks. I, with others, represented those qualities for its first ten years. The last thing Channel 4 needs now is to boll its potatoes twice. If I had never worked there I would go for the job like a shot. As it is I shall not apply and if approached will decline.

Yours faithfully,
LIZ FORGAN,
112 Regents Park Road, NW1,
January 30.

All to play for

From Mr Gerry Scully

Sir, Why not have a penalty shootout with the Germans to decide who hosts the 2006 World Cup (reports, February 3)?

Yours faithfully,
GERRY SCULLY,
43 Schubert Road, SW15,
February 3.

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John Grigsby introduces a special report on the broad-sweeping plans for the regeneration of a London landscape

Progress against the flow

The Thames Gateway initiative is the most ambitious attempt so far by a government to reverse the historical drift westwards of London. Can it turn London's backyard into its front garden?

The area, which stretches from the Royal Docks in east London to Tilbury in Essex on the north bank of the Thames, and from Greenwich to Sheerness on the south, has long been the place where London placed its power stations, dumped its rubbish, mined its chalk and sited its grimmer industries.

The landscape of wide mudflats and bustling historic towns is literally Dickensian — the novelist spent much of his life in Rochester and set novels such as *Great Expectations* in the nearby countryside. It contains unused and derelict land — 4,000 hectares of it — near internationally important architectural and wildlife sites: the Royal Naval College at Greenwich; the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich; the Royal Naval Dockyard at Chatham; Gravesend; the Rainham Marshes; the Medway, which supports 70,000 waders and wildfowl; and the Thames Estuary.

Since Michael Heseltine, in his second incarnation as Environment Secretary, announced the Government's intention to regenerate "the East Thames corridor", the plans have been modified and the name changed. But the Government maintains its belief that it should be the main focus of development in the South East, easing pressure on counties to the west.

Late last year, it reaffirmed its commitment to the area with more than £120 million from the single regeneration budget towards projects between the public and private sectors. About £45 million has been spent or committed on roads and transport improvements east of London.

David Curry, the Regeneration Minister, says: "I am quite pleased with the progress which has been made. The foundations have been laid and we have always said that this must be a job for

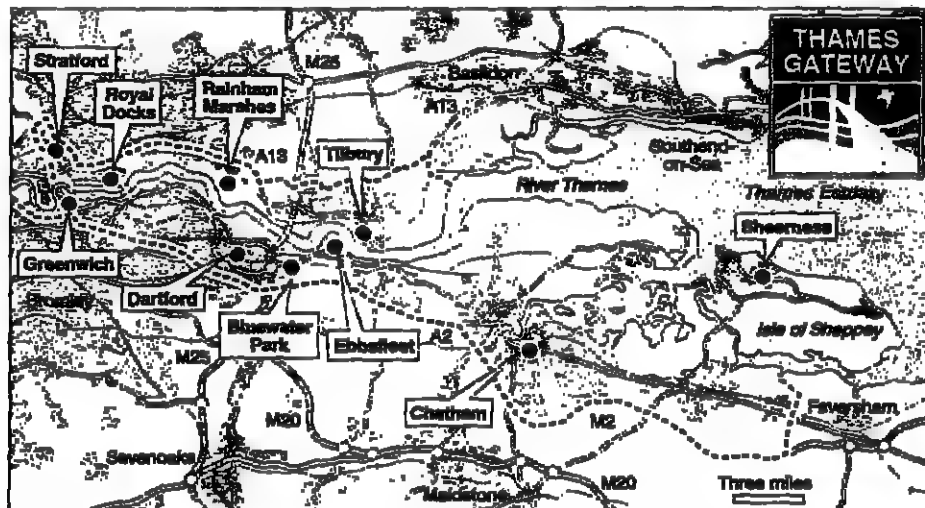


The Government believes the Thames Gateway initiative can provide 98,000 new homes over its 20-year lifetime

a generation. Things are starting to happen just as we are coming out of a recession which has been particularly severe in the South East. We have made two crucial decisions: to put the stations on the Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link at Ebbsfleet and at Stratford.

He is encouraged by the all-party support for the two partnerships, one covering the London area on both banks of the Thames and the other north Kent. "Success does not depend on political ups and downs. We are not going to get the huge sites which result from clear felling and starting from scratch, and attract the giant factories. There are too many constraints from historic buildings and important wildlife sites, and we would not want to do this anyway."

Housebuilding will be crucial to success. Many of the houses and flats needed to accommodate the extra 4.4 million households over the



next 20 years will be in the South East. "We want to attract many of these to Thames Gateway, where they can actually improve and complement the environment rather than blight it," he says. The Government believes

that the area can provide more than 98,000 new homes during the 20-year lifetime of the initiative. There are encouraging signs. Bellway Homes, for example, is building 5,500 flats and houses at Barking Reach. At Ebbsfleet, Blue Circle Prop-

erties (BCP) has submitted an application to develop 175 acres of a 435-acre site involving a new small town of about 3,200 houses as well as 5.3 million square feet of new commercial development. At Stratford, 2,000 houses and

flats are part of the development associated with the station for the high-speed rail link. The £240 million commercial scheme attached to the station should provide about 15,000 to 20,000 jobs.

Some critics argue that there is still little interest from the private sector; that the most spectacular projects, including the millennium celebrations at Greenwich, are the result of government decisions.

Others, such as the £700 million regional shopping centre at Bluewater Park near Dartford, which will be the largest in Europe, have been on the drawing board for years.

But Andrew Gould, partner in charge of development and marketing at Jones Lang Wootton, the chartered surveyors, says: "There is always a similar question when the Government goes into any new location and spends large amounts of money and that is: 'When is it going to happen?' The answer is that it is already happening."

He points to Norton Healthcare moving to the Royal Docks. *Readers Digest* going into Canary Wharf, the Dartford science park with a new campus for the University of Greenwich, which will also move into the Royal Naval College.

Hambros Bank has produced a proposal to build a £100 million Wildark Theme Park on Rainham Marshes. English Partnerships — which will prepare sites for development — has officially taken over the 76-acre Royal Arsenal site at Woolwich. Vanbrugh and Wyatt are among the architects of 22 listed buildings in this area — which boasts the birthplace of Arsenal Football Club at Dial Square.

Business, Dr Gould believes, is attracted by the proximity of the Continent and a young, potentially skilled workforce. The young by comparatively low house prices amid a pleasant environment. Mr Curry is guardedly optimistic: "The acid test will be two or three years hence. It is beginning to take shape."

Putting across the message

John Young on the battle to get tourists to visit east London

Sunny Crouch, chairman of TourEast London, is engagingly frank about the difficulties involved in her job. "When people think about east London, tourism is not exactly the first thing that springs to mind," she says.

But it is by no means a hopeless task. At either end of her territory are two of Britain's biggest tourist attractions, Greenwich and the Tower of London. The area in between might seem less appealing but it is crisscrossed with history and filled with enough curiosities to have drawn more than one and a half million visitors last year. The Luftwaffe, and later the economic and social avalanches that have swept across the old East End have left a permanent imprint. But amid the housing estates and flyovers, speculative office buildings and prematurely ageing shopping centres, traces of the old London remain.

The best guide to these remnants of history is probably the leaflet produced by TourEast London, which includes a map plus a list of more than 150 attractions with details of opening hours, admission charges and transport services.

"East London" is interpreted fairly liberally, extending as far west as Waterloo, Aldwych, Clerkenwell and Islington and hence taking in the whole of the City of London. But it includes more authentic East End landmarks such as Christchurch, Spitalfields, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Petticoat Lane Market, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, the Geffrye Museum, Sutton House, the oldest house in east London, the Hackney Empire and the Theatre Royal, Stratford East.

Recommended walks take in the former docks: Woolwich and Greenwich; Dickensian Southwark, Wapping and Limehouse; the once elegant and well-heeled streets of Victorian Hackney and the recently created, and

increasingly attractive Lee Valley Regional Park. The Docklands Light Railway from Tower Hill or the Bank to Island Gardens is easily the best way to travel to Greenwich.

TourEast London, an offshoot of the London Docklands Development Corporation, was set up to improve public perceptions of east London, to promote its multi-cultural attractions including markets, shops and restaurants, and to encourage new investment. Its members include the British Waterways Board, Canary Wharf, the Docklands Light Railway, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the London Tourist Board and the Port of London Authority as well as the local authorities.

Ms Crouch points out that tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world, creates jobs throughout the construction, transport and service industries, and is more likely than most to recruit local people.

For example, she says, the new Babe Ruth's restaurant in Wapping recruited and trained 120 staff, of whom 80 were formerly unemployed, and south of the river the Terence Conran-inspired training school for chefs in Butlers Wharf has achieved national acclaim.

Ms Crouch cheerfully accepts that her job is likely to remain an uphill struggle. Although three hotels are due to open on the Isle of Dogs in the near future, the area is short of shops and restaurants; the continuing failure of the Tobacco Dock development in Wapping to attract tenants has proved a discouraging omen.

Like many others, she is placing much hope in the soon to be realised opening of the Jubilee Line extension which will bring Canary Wharf within a 15-minute ride of Piccadilly. But getting the message across will be tough.

EVIDENCE that the regeneration of the Thames Gateway area is becoming a reality comes from the two-day conference and exhibition starting today, when representatives of more than 200 companies and institutions will hear of the commitment of the Government, the Labour Party and private and public sectors towards its implementation. Christopher Wren writes. David Curry, the Regeneration Minister, and Frank Dobson, Labour's spokesman on London and transport, will speak of the opportunities for the area at an event supported by English Partnerships, Thames Gateway London Partnership, North Kent Success and the London Docklands Development Corporation. The conference is twice the size of a similar event 18 months ago, further evidence that the area is becoming better known. The venue is Anchorage House, Grove Crescent, East India Dock, Leamouth, London E14 2BA. (Further information is available from Gateway Events: 0171-536 9060).

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Together at last for the benefit of all residents

John Young reports on the new spirit of co-operation
among the local authorities in the Thames Gateway

In March next year, 17 years after it was created, the London Docklands Development Corporation will be wound up. From then on the regeneration of a much larger area, extending along both banks of the Thames, will be the responsibility of a triumvirate comprising English Partnerships (central government), Thames Gateway London Partnership (mainly local authorities) and North Kent Success (a mixture of public and private sector).

In 1981 it was the failure of the local authorities to promote initiatives, attract investment or agree on any kind of joint policy that prompted Michael Heseltine, then the Environment Secretary, to take drastic action. From next year the same councils, along with others in the area, will be back in the driving seat, with the task of reversing decades of economic decline. Will it be any better this time?

Roger Squire, assistant chief executive of the LDDC, is moderately optimistic. He believes there is a new spirit of co-operation abroad and that local authorities, having seen what can be achieved in the Docklands, will adopt a more entrepreneurial approach. Things may not happen so fast, and there may be more public consultation, but the Gateway project will not be allowed to lose momentum.

His view is shared by Ralph Luck, regional director of English Partnerships, a Government-sponsored public body established in 1993 as the Urban Regeneration Agency and relaunched the following year to take over the work of English Estates in providing the infrastructure to attract private capital. As well as administering grants from the Department of the Environment to assist deprived areas and to finance derelict land reclamation, it is also charged with stimulating the public

and private sectors to collaborate in economic development, job creation and environmental improvement.

Although the Thames Gateway area contains some of the poorest boroughs in Britain, it is still lumped in with the overall prosperity of southeast England, and approaches to



The Shell Foundry Gate at Woolwich Arsenal

Brussels for regional aid have fallen on deaf ears.

The realisation that they are not in line for any handouts has, Mr Luck thinks, forced them to become more "sensible" and self-reliant. Co-operation and imagination will be badly needed if such projects as restoring and finding new uses for the historic buildings within Woolwich Arsenal, and cleaning up derelict and polluted areas around Dartford in Kent and Rainham Marshes in Essex, are to have any chance of success.

One of his organisation's main "marketing" tasks will, he says, be to improve the image of the area. In particular he believes that the privatised utilities have been allowed to evade their respon-

sibilities for restoring contaminated land.

Kevin Kingston is the director of Thames Gateway London Partnership, which comprises 12 local authorities working with the LDDC, English Partnerships and two training and enterprise councils (Tecs). Within the partnership area are 5,000 acres zoned for development, two proposed international stations on the Channel Tunnel rail link and the principal site of the millennium celebrations at Greenwich. He says: "I think the project is really gaining momentum." He cites the fact that the partnership has been allotted the largest grant to date from the Government's single regeneration budget, some £30 million towards the £65 million cost of a programme called Skills for the Millennium. Its aims are to create local jobs for local people by developing the skills needed by business and industry, improving educational standards and upgrading the infrastructure.

He counters fears of a return to political infighting by pointing out that local authorities have for the first time got together to form a partnership. "We have got our act together at last," he says. "There is a new dynamism."

Nonetheless, the local authority-dominated partnership might be advised to take a close look at North Kent Success, a much more broadly based organisation in which the county council and five district councils have joined forces with voluntary organisations and more than 50 private companies.

Peter Greenwell, its chief executive, sees the Gateway project as the key to the regeneration of the whole of north Kent. "For American and other companies needing an English-speaking base in Europe, we are ideally situated," he says.



Bluewater Park, near the new Ebbsfleet station, will have 3,000 homes, 5.3 million sq ft of offices, a shopping centre and a 9,000-vehicle car park

Hop on here for Paris

UNLIKELY though it may seem when casting an eye over the dreary Thames Gateway landscape, this run-down part of London will have some of the best connections in Britain to the glamour of Paris, Brussels and beyond by early next century.

If one project above all others symbolises the hopes for the regeneration of the area, it is the Channel Tunnel rail link (CTRL), the most ambitious above-ground civil engineering project since the last war. This high-speed Eurostar line will whisk passengers from St Pancras, through east London and north Kent to the Channel Tunnel when it is completed in 2003.

A Thames Gateway terminal has always been part of the £3 billion proposal. Last February Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, announced that two rival sites, Stratford in east London and Ebbsfleet, an abandoned industrial site near the Dartford Bridge in Kent, would both become stations.

The station at Stratford, which has good overground and Tube railway links and is soon to be linked to the Jubilee Line, will be sited halfway along the length of a 12-mile tunnel under east London. The station is expected to become the main terminal for Eurostar passengers living in east London and Essex. It will also be a stop for "north of London" Channel Tunnel trains linking the Midlands, North of England and Scotland.

It is also expected to make Stratford an attractive, if unlikely, business location in its own right through combining easy access to the City as well as to Paris and Brussels.

The planned station at Ebbsfleet, just a few miles further east, offers different attractions. Sited close to the M25 and the A2, the terminal will double as an attractive commuter connection for residents of north Kent. The new commuter services that will use the CTRL as well as Eurostar will take 20 minutes to reach St Pancras station from Ebbsfleet.

The nearby Bluewater Park site will have a car park for 9,000 vehicles, a major shopping centre, 3,000 new homes and up to 5.3 million sq ft of commercial office space.

JONATHAN PRYNN

Development brings homes, jobs, exhibition centre — and plenty of fish

At the seaward end of the old London docklands, once among the largest in the world and capable of handling the biggest ships afloat, for Roger Squire, assistant chief executive of the London Docklands Development Corporation, they represent the final challenge, the last and biggest piece in the completion of its task.

Already under construction is the first stage of West Silvertown Urban Village, consisting of some 1,000 homes, about 700 of which are being built by Wimpey for private sale. The remaining 300 will be let through housing associations and charitable trusts, and land has been set aside for further extension as employment, and with it the demand for housing, materialises over the coming

Royal finale for the Docklands dream

years. The biggest and most ambitious project is the proposed international exhibition centre on the north side of the Royal Victoria Dock. The first phase alone will occupy some 500,000 sq ft, about half the combined size of Earls Court and Olympia: if all goes well, the centre will grow to some 1,200,000 sq ft, comparable with the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham.

Mr Squire concedes that it will almost certainly attract business away from Earls Court and Olympia, which are surrounded by congested inner-city streets, but he does not foresee a surplus of exhibition space in the capital.

"London badly needs a new facility like this," he says. "More than 100 new businesses are opening in the Docklands every year. More than 60,000 people work here and that will grow to more than 100,000 by the end of the century. Passengers using London City airport have increased from 200,000 to 700,000 in the last three years."

Complementing the exhibition centre will be the new Royals Business Park on an 80-acre site beside the Royal Albert Dock. This in turn will be linked to a new Docklands campus for the University of East London; the first phase, due to open in time for the

millennium, will accommodate some 3,000 students, and the total is expected to rise to an eventual 7,500. The campus will also house the Thames Gateway Technology Centre, for which John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has already announced a £7.8 million grant. The LDDC will be a thing of the past long before the final programme is completed, and future responsibility will fall upon English Partnerships.

The great expenses of enclosed water are already home to a range of watersports including rowing, sailing, waterskiing and windsurfing, but the Royal Zoological Society is keen that the space should be shared with fish housed in a new national aquarium.

JOHN YOUNG

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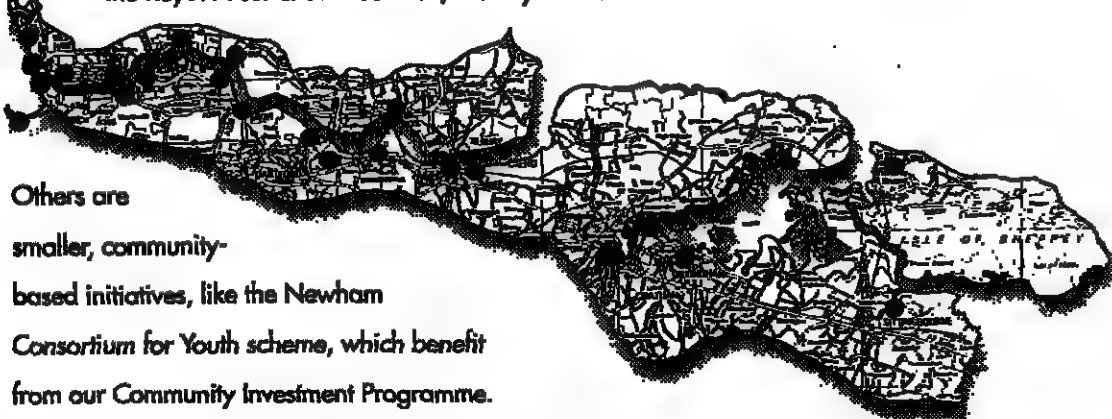
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Throughout the length and breadth of the Thames Gateway, English Partnerships is investing in major regeneration schemes which, with the help of our partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors, will bring long-term benefits to the communities in which they are situated.

Many are high-profile projects, such as the Millennium Festival site at Greenwich Peninsula, the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, the Royal Docks and Chatham Maritime in Kent.



Others are smaller, community-based initiatives, like the Newham Consortium for Youth scheme, which benefit from our Community Investment Programme.

For further details of our investment programmes within the Thames Gateway and throughout London and the South East, contact our office at:
58-60 St. Katharine's Way, London E1 9LB. Tel: 0171-680 2000. Fax: 0171-680 2040.

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Fantasy winner must come out of the shadows



APPROPRIATE, really. Interactive Team Football is a fantasy competition and this week we have, in one sense, a fantasy winner. The winner's team is printed below — which gained a winning score of 63 points — but that is about as much as can be known about the person's identity.

He or she has won £250, but will need to contact the competition organisers on the telephone number at the end of this piece in order to prove identity. The Times has the personal identification number of the entrant, and a list of the transfers made.

Happily, the winner of the monthly prize for January is able to be named. Mr P Turner, of St Helier, Jersey, wins £1,000 with his team, Turner's Earners 5, having scored 156 points over the past month. Mr Turner is also still in contention for the main prize of £50,000, lying in 38th place. John Hunt, of Taunton, remains the overall leader.

The (anonymous) winning team is:

Goalkeeper
K Pressman (Sheffield Wed)

Full backs
M Malpas (Dundee Utd)
A Wright (Aston Villa)

Central defenders
U Ehlhøj (Aston Villa)
D Walker (Sheffield Wed)

Midfield players
N Ardley (Wimbledon)
D Beckham (Manchester Utd)
R Lee (Newcastle)
T Tsvetanov (Aberdeen)



Shearer's hat-trick against Leicester City won the game for his team and made him the leading ITF points-scorer



Strikers
E Heskey (Leicester)
A Shearer (Newcastle)
Manager
T McLean (Dundee Utd)

To improve flagging fortunes, you can use the ITF transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Premier League or the Scottish League Premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touchtone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 884 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 910 200 468.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01552 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-97 matches in the FA Premier League, FA Cup, and Scottish League Premier division and the Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Saves goal	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Scored hat-trick	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Manager	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Team wins	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Team draws	1pt

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scored own goal	1pt
All players	1pt	Manager	1pt
Scored own goal	1pt	Team loses	1pt

* not have played for 75 minutes at the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS			
IN	OUT	LOANED PLAYERS	
33704... Gary Brown	33705... Alan Smith	33706... Stephen Hughes	
33707... Alan Smith	33708... Gary Brown	33709... Stephen Hughes	
33710... Gary Brown	33711... Alan Smith	33712... Stephen Hughes	
33713... Alan Smith	33714... Gary Brown	33715... Stephen Hughes	
33716... Gary Brown	33717... Alan Smith	33718... Stephen Hughes	
33719... Alan Smith	33720... Gary Brown	33721... Stephen Hughes	
33722... Gary Brown	33723... Alan Smith	33724... Stephen Hughes	
33725... Alan Smith	33726... Gary Brown	33727... Stephen Hughes	
33728... Gary Brown	33729... Alan Smith	33730... Stephen Hughes	
33731... Alan Smith	33732... Gary Brown	33733... Stephen Hughes	
33734... Gary Brown	33735... Alan Smith	33736... Stephen Hughes	
33737... Alan Smith	33738... Gary Brown	33739... Stephen Hughes	
33740... Gary Brown	33741... Alan Smith	33742... Stephen Hughes	
33743... Alan Smith	33744... Gary Brown	33745... Stephen Hughes	
33746... Gary Brown	33747... Alan Smith	33748... Stephen Hughes	
33749... Alan Smith	33750... Gary Brown	33751... Stephen Hughes	
33752... Gary Brown	33753... Alan Smith	33754... Stephen Hughes	
33755... Alan Smith	33756... Gary Brown	33757... Stephen Hughes	
33758... Gary Brown	33759... Alan Smith	33760... Stephen Hughes	
33761... Alan Smith	33762... Gary Brown	33763... Stephen Hughes	
33764... Gary Brown	33765... Alan Smith	33766... Stephen Hughes	
33767... Alan Smith	33768... Gary Brown	33769... Stephen Hughes	
33770... Gary Brown	33771... Alan Smith	33772... Stephen Hughes	
33773... Alan Smith	33774... Gary Brown	33775... Stephen Hughes	
33776... Gary Brown	33777... Alan Smith	33778... Stephen Hughes	
33779... Alan Smith	33780... Gary Brown	33781... Stephen Hughes	
33782... Gary Brown	33783... Alan Smith	33784... Stephen Hughes	
33785... Alan Smith	33786... Gary Brown	33787... Stephen Hughes	
33788... Gary Brown	33789... Alan Smith	33790... Stephen Hughes	
33791... Alan Smith	33792... Gary Brown	33793... Stephen Hughes	
33794... Gary Brown	33795... Alan Smith	33796... Stephen Hughes	
33797... Alan Smith	33798... Gary Brown	33799... Stephen Hughes	
33800... Gary Brown	33801... Alan Smith	33802... Stephen Hughes	

D Points (Cheshire to Norwich, one week; S Howe (Nottingham Forest to Ipswich, one week); T Wright (Nottingham Forest to Manchester City, one week); K Scott (Tottenham to Norwich, one week); A Miller (Birmingham to Derby, three weeks); M Cuthbert (Derby to Oxford United, one month). Loan periods subject to discussion.

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE ITF

Pos	Team	Player's name	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	645
2	Sophie And Siam	(G Foster)	638
3	Duggers	(V Cox)	627
4	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	625
5	Nobby	(J Brown)	621
6	Purple Hairs	(G Gohli)	620
7	James Boys Three	(A Boyland)	618
8	Beeston Celtic	(S McElwain)	619
10	Blain's Team	(J Brown)	615
11	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	614
12	James Boys Eight	(M Jones)	610
13	Raj Is Back To Kili 6	(J Gohli)	610
14	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	610
15	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	609
16	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	601
17	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	600
18	Nonchalant AFC 3	(J Ward)	604
19	James	(J Ward)	604
20	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	602
21	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	601
22	Where's Ray Come?	(C Weiss)	600
23	Bob's Boys 2	(P Fromm)	600
24	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	600
25	James Boys One	(M Jones)	599
26	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	598
27	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	598
28	Bob's Boys 3	(J Brown)	598
29	Bob's Boys 4	(M Larcombe)	597
30	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	597
31	Raj Is Back To Kili 6	(J Gohli)	597
32	Jabberwocky	(P A Amoss)	596
33	Team C	(A Lorne)	594
34	Bob's Ark	(P Dolan)	594
35	Paul's Team	(P Tustin)	593
36	Gargamel's	(A Lorne)	592
38	Nobby Imports	(S Fraser)	592
39	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	590
39	James Boys Six	(M Jones)	590
40	Joking	(P Fellen)	589
40	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	589
40	AFC	(M Baker)	589
40	Hairier's Mob	(C Hunter)	589
44	ABC	(M Baker)	584
44	A2	(K Parhal)	584
44	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	584
47	NST Monstons	(J Staszkiwicz)	582
47	12 Angry Men	(G Cack)	582
48	Stops	(P Malt)	581
49	Carlisle 8	(A Luchhurst)	581
49	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	581
50	Buxley Boys	(R Crook)	580
52	Murray's Megaliths	(M MacMillan)	580
52	Always Portugal 1	(V Gurneases)	580
53	Archie	(J Gohli)	579
56	Tulip's Topi	(D Tulip)	578
56	Krytante 2	(S Roberson)	578
56	Nobby J	(J Brown)	578
56	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	577
60	Stadewarners	(P Walters)	577
60	PJ Triette	(P Newbould)	577
62	Get Against O's	(S Shipley)	575
62	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	575
62	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	575
65	Patrick B&Bao 3	(J Hamilton)	574
65	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	574
67	Doez Rangers 3	(J Gohli)	573
67	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohli)	573
67	Crooky Boys	(R Crook)	573
67	Uni Boys Utd 1	(G Gardiner)	573

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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option



Martyn, the Leeds United goalkeeper, continues to amass points in ITF while his defence stands firm

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	+4	-5
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+4	+34
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	3.50	+4	+10
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	+4	+6
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+12
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-4	+2
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	-1
10502	S Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+12
10601	D Kharine	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+10
10602	K Hitchcock	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+10
10603	F Groves	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+3
10701	S Crighton	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	+10	-14
10702	J Flett	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	0
10802	R Hould	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+4	-12
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10
11001	I Westwater	Dundee United	2.50	0	-22
11101	N Southall	Dundee United	2.50	-2	-1
11102	P Gerrard	Dundee United	2.50	-2	-1
11103	G Rousset	Dundee United	2.00	+5	-14
11201	J Leighton	Dundee United	1.50	+4	-25
11202	D Lakovic	Dundee United	1.50	+4	-25
11301	M Beesley	Dundee United	1.50	+4	-25
11302	P Evans	Dundee United	1.50	+4	-25
11303	N Martin	Dundee United	1.50	+4	-25
11401	K Kellie	Dundee United	1.00	-8	-7
11402	D James	Dundee United	5.00	+5	+23
11403	A Warner	Dundee United	0.50	0	0
11501	P Schmalchal	Dundee United	1.00	0	+5
11502	R van der Grint	Dundee United	1.50	0	+5
11503	G Miller	Dundee United	1.50	0	+5
11601	S Howie	Dundee United	1.50	-5	-20
11602	S Hisslop	Dundee United	4.00	-5	-15
11603	P Smeck	Dundee United	3.00	0	0
11701	M Crossley	Dundee United	0.75	0	0
11702	A Fettes	Dundee United	0.75	0	0
11703	S Thomson	Dundee United	0.50	-1	-29
11801	A Gornall	Dundee United	0.50	+5	+30
11802	K Pressman	Dundee United	2.00	+11	+11
11803	M Clarke	Dundee United	0.50	0	-28
11901	D Beasant	Dundee United	0.25	0	+2
11902	N Moss	Dundee United	1.00	-3	-2
11903	M Taylor	Dundee United	0.50	-2	-18
12001	L Pares	Dundee United	1.00	-9	-9
12002	A Coton	Dundee United	3.50	-4	-12
12003	I Walker	Dundee United	0.50	0	-20
12004	E Beardsen	Dundee United	0.50	0	+5
12005	L Miodoski	Dundee United	1.00	-4	-2
12006	S Maitland	Dundee United	1.00	-4	-2
12007	N Sullivan	Dundee United	1.00	0	0
12008	P Heald	Dundee United	1.00	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
20101	S McKinnie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8
20102	L Dixon	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+24
20103	N Winterburn	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+1
20201	S Morrow	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+31
20202	A Wright	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+31
20203	A Charles	Aberdeen	2.50	0	0
20204	P King	Aberdeen	0.25	0	0
20205	F Nelson	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+28
20206	H Berg	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+28
20207	G le Sax	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+28
20208	J Kenna	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+28
20209	G Croft	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+28
20210	J McInnes	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+28
20211	D Petruscu	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+28
20212	S Clark	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+6
20213	S Minto	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-8
20214	D Burrows	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+4
20215	B Burrows	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+4
20216	R Goss	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-2
20217	C Powell	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-2
20218	D Yates	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+4
20219	M Malpas	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+4
20220	M Perry	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+7
20221	N Duffy	Aberdeen	0.25	0	-7
20222	C Miller	Aberdeen	0.25	0	-7
20223	A Tod	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+14
20224	M Hagger	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+14
20225	A Hinchcliffe	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+14
20226	T Phelan	Aberdeen	1.50	0	+10
20227	E Barrett	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8
20228	G Locke	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+8
20229	N Pointon	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+8
20230	W Miller	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+8
20231	A Dow	Aberdeen	0.50	0	-14
20232	G MacPherson	Aberdeen	3.00	+4	+3
20233	K Kelly	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+13
20234	A Dorigo	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+13
20235	P Beesley	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+13
20236	G Hall	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+13
20237	M Whitlow	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+13
20238	S Grayson	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+13
20239	N Lewis	Aberdeen	0.25	0	+13
20240	F Roling	Aberdeen	3.00	0	0
20241	R Jones	Aberdeen	1.50	0	0
20242	S Harkness	Aberdeen	1.50	0	0
20243	S Bjornesby	Aberdeen	4.00	0	+33
20244	D Irwin	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+32
20245	G Neville	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+32
20246	P Neville	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+14
20247	N Cox	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-1
20248	C Morris	Aberdeen	0.75	0	-1
20249	C Fleming	Aberdeen	0.25	0	-1
20250	C Blackmore	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-1
20251	V Kinder	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+3
20252	S McMillan	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+3
20253	W Barton	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+3
20254	N Elliott	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+2
20255	J Beardsford	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+2
20256	S Pearce	Aberdeen	4.00	0	+2
20257	D Lytle	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+13
20258	A Haaland	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+4
20259	N Jerkin	Aberdeen	0.75	0	-8
20260	D Kirkwood	Aberdeen	0.75	0	-8
20261	D Robertson	Aberdeen	2.00	0	0
20262	J Brown	Aberdeen	1.50	0	+27
20263	N Nolan	Aberdeen	1.50	0	+27
20264	P Atherton	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+10
20265	S Nicol	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+12
20266	D Stefanovic	Aberdeen	0.50	0	0
20267	L Briscoe	Aberdeen	0.75	0	-10
20268	J Bonall	Aberdeen	0.75	0	-10
20269	S Charlton	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+17
20270	D Chubb	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+17
20271	M Scott	Aberdeen	0.25	0	-8
20272	G Hall	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-1
20273	J Eriksson	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-1
20274	D Austin	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+13
20275	C Wilson	Aberdeen	1.00	0	0
20276	J Edinburg	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-6
20277	D Kerslake	Aberdeen	4.00	0	-15
20278	S Dicks	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+4
20279	J Breacker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+4
20280	M Bowen	Aberdeen	1.50	0	+9
20281	B Thatcher	Aberdeen	0.75	0	+2
20282	A Kimble	Aberdeen	0.75	0	+2
20283	K Cunningham	Aberdeen	0.75	0	+2
20284	D Jupp	Aberdeen	0.25	0	+27
20285	C Perry	Aberdeen	1.00	0	+4

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	+4	+23
30302	U Ehlig	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+19
30303	C Tiller	Aston Villa	1.00	+4	+23
30304	R Tilmann	Aston Villa	1.00	+4	+23
30305	R Tilmann	Aston Villa	1.00	+4	+23
30306	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-8
30307	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-8
30308	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-8
30309	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-8
30310	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-8
30311	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-8
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30391	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-8

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Time to get tough on youth crime, says Lord Mackay
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Tackling a cultural divide in football's coaching approach
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4 1997

Ivory & Sime chief quits over management fallout

By PAUL DURMAN

IVORY & SIME, the Edinburgh fund manager, insisted that it was not for sale yesterday as it sought to restore stability after the surprise departure of Colin Hook, its much-criticised managing director.

After little more than two years, Mr Hook resigned and left immediately because of a breakdown in his relationship with fund managers. Four resigned last month to set up

their own firm, the latest in a string of senior management departures. Sir David Kinloch, the chairman who has taken the executive reins, said: "We are not seeking to receive an offer." He added: "The business is actually in quite good shape apart from these wretched defections. Our investment performance, which is critical, is good and certainly a damn sight better than a lot of our competitors." He pledged to make Ivory "more user-friendly".

The fallout at Ivory & Sime is similar to the crisis at Dunedin last winter when the Bank of Scotland-owned fund manager lost, in quick succession, its chairman, deputy chief executive and a team of managers who left to set up their own firm. The Bank of Scotland put one of its own senior people in charge and said that the firm was not for sale. Dunedin Fund Managers for £83.3 million in February.

Some members of the Edinburgh financial community expect a repeat performance, particularly since Sir David's main role is as deputy chief executive of Caledonia Investments, the Cayzer family company that owns nearly 30 per cent of Ivory & Sime. Ivory manages about £3.8 billion and has a current market value of £78 million.

Mr Hook's alleged personality failings have been widely reported since the exit last month of a team

led by Mark Tyndall, head of UK equities, and John Dodd, head of Ivory's highly successful small companies team. A former Army officer, Mr Hook was widely regarded as aloof and unapproachable.

His resignation still came as a surprise after Sir David publicly backed Mr Hook in an interview in mid-January. However, Sir David spent the next two weeks in Edinburgh, "speaking to clients, senior members of staff, not-so-senior

members of staff and advisers". The verdict on Mr Hook was "more or less the same", he said.

Sir David added: "He did a very good job in the first year... but his skills were not best suited to the next stage of development." Mr Hook will receive his entitlement from a one-year contract that paid him a basic salary of £120,000.

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Between the lines, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FTSE 100	4257.8	(-18.0)
Yield	3.64%	
FTSE All share	2079.65	(-8.01)
Nikkei	18055.85	(-544.05)
Dow Jones	8805.01	(-8.09)
S&P Composite	786.75	(-0.62)
US RATES		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Yield	6.75%	(6.50%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Life long call	11 1/8%	(11 1/8%)
Future (Mar)		
STERLING		
New York	1.8125*	(1.8030)
London		
£/\$	1.8119	(1.8026)
DM/\$	2.5491	(2.5244)
FF/\$	1.6311	(1.6251)
SP/\$	2.2502	(2.2507)
Yen/\$	195.22	(194.54)
£ Index	95.3	(94.4)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM/\$	1.8419*	(1.8305)
FF/\$	1.5478*	(1.5322)
SP/\$	1.6160*	(1.6228)
Yen/\$	121.55*	(121.42)
£ Index	102.3	(102.0)
Tokyo close Yen	121.58	
COMMODITIES		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	52.15	(52.05)
GOLD		
London close	334.30	(334.30)
* denotes midday trading price		

Gates warning

Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, said the UK and Europe are failing to keep pace with the software revolution and risk falling behind the nations of South-East Asia. Page 28

Prices fall

House prices fell more sharply than expected in January, leading to a steep drop in the annual rate of house price inflation. Page 28

Output boost unlikely to push rates up

By JANET BUSR, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITISH manufacturing staged a rebound in January, but the news should not tilt the balance in favour of higher interest rates with prices showing their biggest fall since last August because of the strength of sterling.

The latest survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed that orders, output and employment growth all accelerated last month. The Purchasing Managers' Index jumped to 54.0 from 52.8 in December, allaying fears that manufacturing could slip back into recession.

Growth was driven by domestic orders, particularly for consumer goods, with exports showing continued growth, albeit at a subdued pace compared with last summer. Exports were clearly held back by sterling's strength which

also led to cheaper import costs. Separate figures published by the Bank of England suggested that retailing had also picked up in January after a disappointing December. M0 narrow money supply, which City analysts look at as a guide to retail sales, rose by 0.7 per cent in January, stronger than expected.

But despite yesterday's evidence of a pick-up in both manufacturing and retailing last month, the City continues to believe that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will maintain his resistance to Bank of England pressure for a rise in base rates.

Mr Clarke meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, tomorrow for their monthly monetary meeting. Mr George pressed unsuccessfully for a quarter-

point rise in base rates at the December monetary meeting and gave warning that he could demand a half-point rise in January and February if this was not forthcoming.

Yesterday's economic evidence still leaves intact the Chancellor's argument about the deflationary effect of sterling's strength, used to justify unchanged base rates at the January monetary meeting.

The exchange rate part of the equation also went Mr Clarke's way yesterday. After falling in recent days, the pound staged a dramatic rebound, closing at 95.3 on its effective index against a basket of currencies compared with 94.4 on Friday. Sterling gained more than two-and-a-half pence against the mark to close at DM2.6497 and also gained a cent against the dollar.

The City is waiting eagerly for Thursday's publication of fourth-quarter and final results from ICI to see whether — and how much — the company's profits have been hit by the strength of the pound. Many other companies have reported depressed profits in recent weeks because of the exchange rate.

Hopes that American interest rates will remain unchanged after today's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee were boosted by a weaker than expected US purchasing managers' survey yesterday which suggested that strength in American manufacturing is beginning to wane.

The US index fell to 52.0 in January from 53.8 in December compared with expectations on Wall Street of a 53.0 reading. There was a small rise in the prices index, but analysts saw no evidence of worrying price pressures.

American pie, page 31

Governor warns of EMU 'risks'

By OUR ECONOMICS EDITOR

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, last night urged Europe's political leaders to stand back and weigh up dispassionately the "real risks" as well as the potential benefits of the single currency before any irrevocable step is taken.

In a speech to bankers in London, Mr George said that it would be foolhardy to assume that monetary union will inevitably bring about the political harmony and economic prosperity across Europe that everybody wants to see.

He noted that Britain is widely regarded elsewhere in Europe as being bloodily-minded and even obstructive about EMU. But he said: "If the debate in this country encourages open debate elsewhere, then we will be doing a service to Europe as a whole."

He said that it would be disappointing if this debate were to degenerate into re-orientation and antagonism. "I am not particularly impressed either by the

fears sometimes expressed about the economic penalties that will be visited on countries outside monetary union, or by the occasional rattling of the cage to try to bully them into it," he said.

In remarks that are highly relevant to the debate triggered by Toyota's public airing of doubts about future investment in Britain if it remained outside the single currency, the Governor was upbeat. He said investment would continue to flow to Britain as long as it succeeds in maintaining an environment of offsetting attractive returns. He said that Britain's macroeconomic and supply side policies were far more important than the exchange rate.

For the City, Mr George said that the euro, if it comes, "will be more of an opportunity than a threat". He said that the international business of the City continued to increase and that this had very little to do with the expectation that Britain will be among the first to join a single currency.

MTM founder jailed over £250m fraud

By ROBERT MILLER

THE 60-year-old founder and former chairman of MTM, the chemicals group, was last night starting a two-year prison sentence for a huge fraud in which investors lost £250 million.

Richard Lines, who helped to found MTM in 1984, was found guilty on two counts of conspiring to account falsely and one charge of making false or misleading statements. Lines was also disqualified from acting as a company director for five years by Judge Grigson sitting at the Old Bailey.

Thomas Baxter, the 45-year-old former finance director of MTM, once Britain's second-

largest chemicals combine, was sent to prison for six months for conspiring to account falsely and making false or deceptive statements. He was disqualified from being a company director for two years. The two men were found guilty in December after a six-month trial.

The Serious Fraud Office and North Yorkshire Police fraud squad began an investigation into MTM in March 1992 after the company's share price collapsed and investors lost £250 million. During the trial the court heard that MTM had embarked on an acquisition spree.

City analysts, acting on information provided by MTM, forecast substantial profits for 1990 and 1991, and the share price rose accordingly. The SFO said Lines took advantage of the buoyant share price to fund another acquisition and sell a substantial number of shares that he owned or controlled.

In September 1991 Lines, of Great Ayrton, North Yorkshire, sold 1.25 million shares for more than £3 million. Some of the money was used to buy a farm worth £1.8 million, added to Lines's home, which has a swimming pool and stables.

House of Fraser eyes Liverpool

By JASON NISSE

HOUSE OF FRASER, which a week ago said that it was getting rid of three department stores and cutting 1,000 jobs, is considering opening a 120,000 sq ft store in the centre of Liverpool.

House of Fraser and Debenhams have been trumpeted as core tenants of the proposed 300,000 sq ft development at Chervasse Park, between the Albert Dock and the city centre. The Debenhams site could be up to 190,000 sq ft, making it one of the largest

stores in the UK. The developer of Chervasse, Walton Group, is urging the Millennium Commission to reject a rival scheme for the site, proposed by a consortium led by the Dean of Liverpool, the Very Rev Derrick Walters. That scheme needs £24.6 million of lottery funding. The commission says a decision on whether to approve a grant will be made by February 10.

Walton's letting agent, Neil Michenall, of Lanson Michenall, said he had shown site plans to HoF, which had asked for detailed letting terms. The stores group said: "We are interested in many shopping developments, but have made no commitments to Chervasse Park."

Under John Coleman, who took the helm last year, HoF has been revamping its portfolio, agreeing to developments in Reading, Solihull and Nottingham. Debenhams has given Walton a letter backing its plan — for shops, conference hall and hotel — which the developer has put before the commission and Liverpool City Council.



Coleman: portfolio revamp

Tories to fight long-term joblessness

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government will today announce a shift in its jobs policy by declaring a new focus on long-term unemployment, with the aim of cutting the number of people out of work for a year or more by up to 100,000 over the next year.

Gillian Shepherd, the Employment

and Education Secretary, will signal the shift in policy in a speech today to educational and business leaders in east London. Speaking in Tower Hamlets, she is expected to say that the Government will now turn its attention to those most disadvantaged in the search for jobs — the long-term unemployed. She will announce that the Government is to refocus its main job-finding arm, the Employ-

ment Service, to help those unemployed for a very long time to get back to work. Unemployment overall in Britain is low and falling quickly, compared with many other countries, but long-term unemployment — joblessness for a year or more — remains high in the UK. Overall UK unemployment is 1.88 million, but about 800,000 people in that total have been out of work for more than a year.

JOHN LAURIE.

Much loved Scottish member of "Dad's Army".
Catchphrase: "We're doomed!"

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Gates says UK is in danger of eclipse in software revolution

FROM CAROLINE MERRILL IN DAVOS

BILL GATES, chairman of Microsoft, gave a warning yesterday that the UK and Europe are failing to keep pace with the software revolution and risk falling behind the nations of South-East Asia.

The result would be a technology deficit for future generations, he said.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Mr Gates and Andrew Grove, chief executive of Intel, urged European governments and venture capitalists to do more to encourage the growth and development of software companies.

Mr Gates said: "I do not understand why there is not more software activity coming out of Europe." Other areas of the world were catching up in terms of software development, he added.

He believes that the biggest software developments are not going to be in either America or Europe. "India is likely to be the next software superpower," Mr Gates said. While at Davos he met H D Deve Gowda, Prime Minister of India, and is shortly to travel to India to discuss the possibility of joint initiatives in the country, including an educational centre in Bombay.

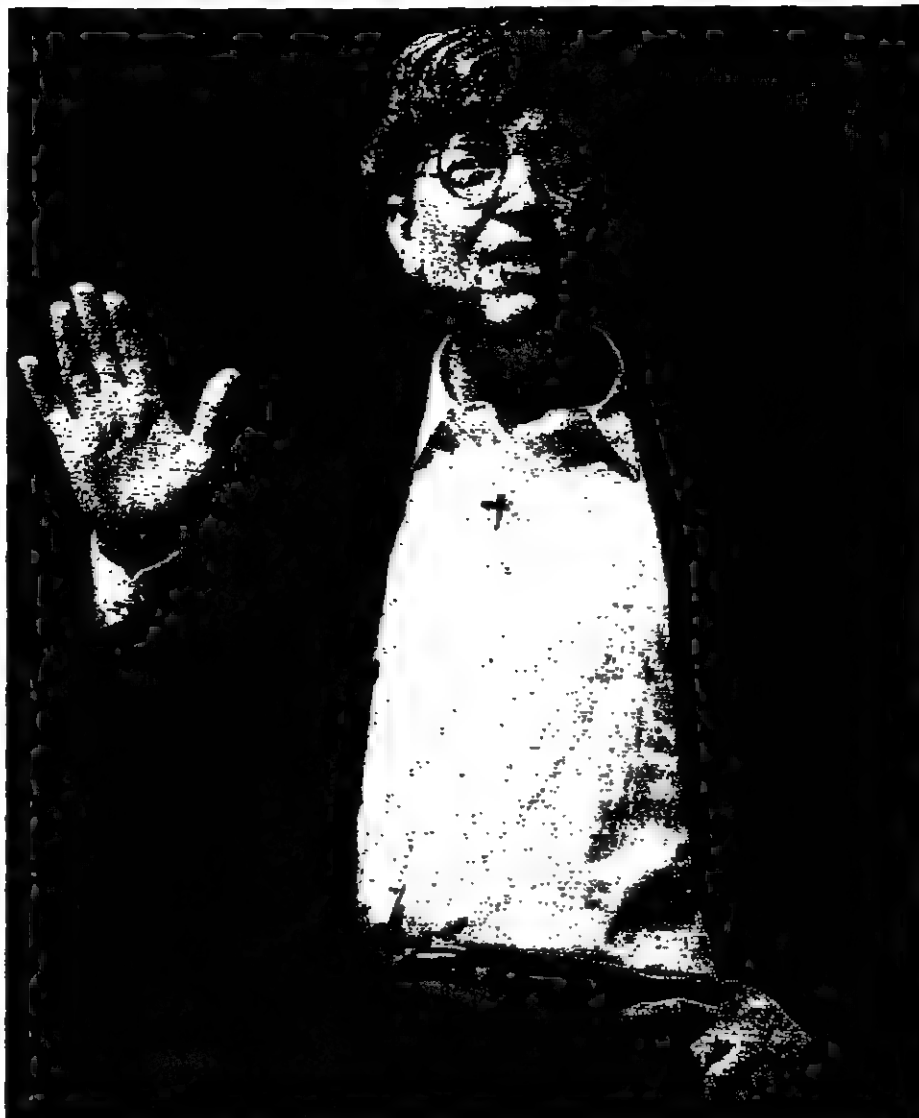
Dr Grove also said that

unless action was taken Europe would be left behind. "The consequences of not adopting and encouraging the use of PC-based technology as a fundamental part of business and education could leave future generations of Europeans with a technology deficit."

He was also critical of the fact that European venture capitalists were reluctant to put money into technology firms. "Intel, Netscape, Yahoo and Microsoft were all started with the help of venture capital. In Europe banks tend to be the source of finance. Banks are a lot more risk-averse. And technology is either going to be very big or you lose your money. Governments should play a role in this process," he said.

In a review of the markets in Asia, Mr Gates said India would emerge as a superpower, while Singapore, thanks to its modern infrastructure and information-driven economy, was on target to achieving the highest per capita PC penetration rate in the world. Microsoft is conducting an Internet pioneering project called Sidewalk in the city.

Microsoft is also investing in neighbouring Malaysia, where a \$2 billion Multimedia Super Corridor is being built at a site about 65 kilometres south of Kuala Lumpur, the capital. About 20 companies have confirmed their intention of establishing operations in the high-technology zone.



Bill Gates, who believes that India will become the next software superpower

Stonehill lands £1m post as new BZW chief

BY ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays, yesterday appointed a new chief executive at an estimated salary of more than £1 million.

Charles Stonehill, 38, joins BZW after 13 years with Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, where he rose to become managing director of the group's European equities division and a member of the global equity operating committee. Previously, Mr Stonehill spent six years at JP Morgan, the US bank, where he was part of the oil and gas corporate finance team in London and New York.

City sources indicated that an executive in Mr Stonehill's position could expect a total remuneration package of considerably more than £1 million. BZW declined to comment on salaries.

The Stonehill appointment is the final one in a senior management reshuffle instigated by Bill Harrison, the chief executive of BZW, who joined the firm from Robert Fleming last September.

Mr Stonehill said: "BZW has a strong, competitive advantage in a number of areas and a new management team, led by Bill Harrison, which has the vision and the commitment to extend those strengths. To become a member of that team was an irresistible opportunity."

Mr Stonehill is a member of the Securities Trading Committee of the London Investment Banking Association.

London Electricity takeover approved

ONLY two British regional electricity companies remain independent after the Government yesterday allowed the agreed £1.3 billion takeover of London Electricity by Entergy of America. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, decided not to refer the acquisition to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in line with advice from Professor Stephen Littlechild, the power industry regulator, and John Bridgeman, the Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading.

Entergy Power UK, the British unit of Entergy Corp, said it had so far received valid acceptances representing 71 per cent of London Electricity's issued share capital. Entergy, which launched its £1.267 billion bid last December, extended the offer to February 14. The sale of London Electricity leaves Yorkshire Electricity and Southern Electric as the only two power companies not to have succumbed to bids, mostly from American companies.

A&L faces final fight

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER faces a final battle with dissenting members as it moves to convert from a building society to a bank. Members voted for the change last year. Each qualifying saver and borrower will receive 250 shares. But many are angry that the shares are being given on a flat rate basis, and not according to the size of deposits or loans. Next Monday, objectors will make their case before the Building Societies Commission, under arrangements finalised yesterday.

Yarrow to cut 300 jobs

YARROW, the troubled warship builder, is to shed more than 300 jobs in new cuts at the Clyde yard. The company blames gaps in its order book. The new cuts take jobs lost at the yard over the past year to more than 1,000. Yarrow insisted that long-term prospects for the yard are "very good", with a contract to build the latest batch of Type 23 frigates providing work up to the year 2003. The yard is working on four Type 23 frigates for the Royal Navy and two frigates for Malaysia.

Apple faces more cuts

APPLE COMPUTER, the personal computer maker, is to make further cuts in its workforce and sell off assets in an attempt to cut costs by at least 20 per cent. The company said it needed to reduce its costs by \$400 million in addition to the cuts and 1,300 job losses made last year. The company also plans to sell its Newton handheld computer business that was developed in the 1980s. Fippin, the home entertainment computer presented as a cheap Internet console, may also be sold.

Pacer Infotec returns

SHARES in Pacer Infotec, the newly merged defence group, were relisted this morning after a four-month suspension while it corrected an overstatement of the assets of the enlarged group. Its shares were suspended at 85p, when the American-based company said the assets of Infotec, which Pacer bought in July for \$7.7 million, had been overstated by \$2.1 million. Infotec's vendors have since agreed to return £17.7 million in shares. The restated figures will be published on March 4.

Hearts seeks listing

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN, the Scottish Premier League club, is to float on the Stock Exchange, raising up to £6 million and valuing the club at about £20 million. The flotation is expected to take place in May. Hearts will be the first Scottish club to seek a full listing. Chelsea Village, which owns Chelsea, yesterday raised £1.54 million by placing of 1.1 million shares at 140p and Capitan, which owns Leeds United, raised £5.7 million by placing of 13.6 million at 42p to two institutional investors.

Clubhaus tees off

CLUBHAUS, the developer and operator of leisure facilities, is buying Castle Royle Golf and Country Club, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, for £2.98 million, being paid in cash and shares. Castle Royle, opened in 1995, is a championship-quality 18-hole golf course. It hosted a PGA Seniors Tour event in 1996. Clubhaus has grown rapidly by acquisition since its demerger from The Ex-Lands property company a year ago. Clubhaus shares rose 5p to a high of 92½p.

ScotAm ignores Abbey appeal to stop mailshot

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH AMICABLE is resolutely pushing ahead with plans to send out demutualisation documents and voting forms within days despite a formal appeal from Abbey National yesterday to stop the mailshot.

Abbey's eleven-hour attempt to halt the demutualisation process came in the form of a three-page letter sent by express courier and fax to the London headquarters of SBC Warburg, the merchant bank currently advising Scottish Amicable.

Distribution of the disputed circular to Scottish Amicable policyholders is likely to begin on Thursday. It will make passing reference to the Abbey's bid of between £1.1 billion to £1.5 billion for the mutual life insurer, but will recommend that policyholders vote for Scottish Amicable's own two-stage flotation.

Abbey's letter sent yesterday was addressed to Jack Birney, managing director of SBC Warburg, from John Nelson, vice-chairman of Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank advising Abbey.

In it, Mr Nelson says: "We are formally requesting you to



Birch: formal request

defer sending any proposals to policyholders with the Scottish Amicable's board's recommendations until a thorough analysis of Abbey National's offer (and any others which may be forthcoming) has been undertaken. There is no doubt that the offer from Abbey National is substantially more attractive to policyholders."

The letter requests Mr Birney to contact Mr Nelson by telephone to discuss the matter further and reiterates that Abbey has made a formal offer. Abbey, whose chief executive is Peter Birch, pledges to pay the embedded value of the company plus goodwill of at least £400 million to policyholders from its own reserves. A Scottish Amicable adviser said: "Abbey still seems to think that it has made a bid for us, but no formal offers have materialised."

Pennington, page 29

Government concession on energy

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE Government conceded yesterday that it had not been aware of the full value of the energy industries when they were sold and first regulated. The Energy Minister's comments are the closest the Government has come to saying that the industries were sold off cheaply and enjoyed lenient regulation.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie told the Trade and Industry Select Committee on Regulation that immediately after privatisation there had been "little understanding of the state of the industry". He added: "In retrospect one could have an argument about the appropriate share price."

But the minister said price controls implemented immediately after privatisation would not necessarily have led to greater profit for the companies.

House price rise slows in January

BY ROBERT MILLER

HOUSE prices in the UK fell more sharply than expected in January, leading to a steep drop in the annual rate of house price inflation according to the latest survey published today.

The Halifax, Britain's largest mortgage lender, will report that monthly UK house prices fell by 0.6 per cent last month compared with a rise of 1.9 per cent in December. On an annual basis the building society said house price inflation is now 7.1 per cent against the 8.4 per cent recorded at the end of last year.

The survey's authors said: "The fall in January 1997 is sharper than expected and is probably an adjustment for larger-than-expected rises at the end of 1996. The annual rate of inflation is now in line with our general expectation of around 7 per cent." Despite

the healthy rise in house prices seen in certain areas of the country, the Halifax index is still 5.6 per cent below its peak in 1999. The last time it fell on a monthly basis was in June last year.

Nationwide Building Society, however, said last week that house prices rose 0.7 per cent in January compared with December, pushing the annual rate of house price inflation to 8.2 per cent. While the Halifax and Nationwide house price indices often vary on a month-to-month basis they usually converge to provide the same "feeling" for the market by the end of the year.

One area of the Halifax survey that will cause concern is the 2 per cent fall in prices paid by first-time buyers in January. The annual rate of inflation in this sector is now 5.7 per cent, compared with 8 per cent reported last month.

Sharman's £770,000 at KPMG

BY ROBERT BRUCE

COLIN SHARMAN, UK senior partner of KPMG, saw his income rise 4.1 per cent to £770,577 in the year to September 30, according to the accountancy firm's latest audited report and accounts. The accounts also show the average partner's earnings exceeded £200,000, with a rise of 12 per cent from £184,000 to £206,000.

KPMG said gross fees rose 6 per cent to £624 million, with a particularly strong contribution from corporate finance. Mr Sharman also unveiled figures for the first quarter of the current year, showing that earned income was up 15 per cent, management consulting was up 32 per cent and transactions services, covering such areas as acquisitions and disposals work, rose 35 per cent.

KPMG decided to incorporate its audit business last year as a way of limiting liability, while other firms toyed with the idea of forming limited liability partnerships under Jersey law. The new set of accounts covers both KPMG Audit plc and the rest of the business.

Investors fight off Panther

BY GAVIN LINDSEY

AN unprecedented high turnout of shareholders snubbed the attempt by Panther Securities to take over the troubled Enxoro Dual split capital investment trust yesterday.

Holders of 80 per cent of the trust's shares voted in favour of retaining Peter Gray, the chairman, and his board. Andrew Perloff, of Panther Securities, a property investment company with a 29.9 per cent stake in the trust, convinced only 3 per cent of shareholders to vote for him. Enxoro Dual and SBC Warburg, its adviser, had warned investors of the danger of the trust becoming a property investment company.

Panther succeeded in blocking an amendment to the trust's articles of association that would have increased the annual yield to zero dividend preference shareholders from 12.2 per cent to 13 per cent. Mr Gray said he would enter negotiations with Panther with a view to liquidating the trust. But it remains unclear how the board can pay zero holders in full and offer anything to the trust's income and ordinary shareholders.

TOURIST RATE			
Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.19	Malta	0.541
Austria S	13.65	Netherlands G	2.888
Belgium F	27.10	New Zealand \$	2.47
Canada C	2.10	Norway N	10.17
Czech R	0.022	Portugal E	206.60
Denmark K	10.56	S Africa R	7.36
Euro Y	8.41	Spain P	166.00
France F	9.26	Sweden S	216.50
Germany D	2.78	Switzerland F	2.40
Greece D	4.00	Taiwan N	191.00
Hong Kong S	13.04	USA \$	1.00
Iceland K	12.0		
Ireland P	0.88		
Israel S	0.80		
Italy Lira	25.41		
Japan Yen	200.00		

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Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

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CHANGING TIMES

□ ScotAm policyholders could regret the confusion □ German tele-alliance in trouble □ AIM media group's profits shock

Kicking the Abbey habit

□ THERE will shortly be another 44 million pieces of waste paper competing with all the other junk mail in the post. They will be bound up into the 80-page document being sent this week to 1.1 million people from Scottish Amicable, whose two-tier flotation has been kicked into touch by the Abbey National.

The state of affairs at ScotAm is so peculiar, and so complex, that one hesitates to make firm predictions. There seems little chance that ScotAm will be re-created in three to five years as a stand-alone business quoted on the stock market. There is a slight danger, however, that it might get there by default because its owners, the policyholders, are so baffled that they fail to take the action needed to safeguard their interests.

The dozen grey-suited accountants running ScotAm, emerging blinking from the shadows of the Scottish mutual industry where any number of similarly named concerns have slept undisturbed for decades, were immediately required to perform some difficult public contortions once the Abbey pitched up.

The top 12 men had to put in £1.5 million of their own money between them. Their profit, over the three to five years before an eventual ScotAm float, was to have been based on the rate of growth of ScotAm's new in-

surance vehicle: 25 per cent, and their stakes will be worth £3.75 million in all, a profit to split between them of £2.25 million. Relatively modest by comparison with other boardroom incentive packages.

The irony is that, in selling the scheme to policyholders, that 25 per cent figure was suggested as about the best return possible. Now it is promised as a minimum because the success of the new vehicle also translates into policyholders' eventual returns. So these must be emphasised if the Abbey is to be resisted.

Except that in the real world the Abbey has merely started a bidding war that will end when someone puts the highest value on the table, payable right now. Bidders must make their intentions clear by the special meeting on March 6 at which policyholders will decide on the management's plan.

When a similar situation emerged at the National & Provincial the management simply slapped gagging notices on all bidders and required them to submit offers behind closed doors within a month. But the

N&P, which was bought by the Abbey, was prepared to countenance such a sale, and it seems ScotAm is not.

The danger is that the March 6 poll requires a 75 per cent majority, but only of those actually voting. Policyholders keen on the two-tier plan will clearly say yes.

But if enough of those less keen or wanting to accept a higher offer but unsure of how to do so, abstain, the former's votes could be enough to win the day. Even if they form a minority, and if the actions they are approving are against the best interests of the majority.

C&W disconnects the phone line

□ WHAT is Dick Brown up to? The chief executive of Cable & Wireless started his job with a bang last autumn when he poached RWE, a German industrial group, away from the rival British Telecom partnership in Germany. Only four months later we learn that Mr Brown is ready to pull C&W out of the

PENNINGTON



German alliance, abandoning RWE and fellow German concern Veba to fend for themselves.

Mr Brown's alternative strategy is not clear, and unless he is careful, the whole thing could turn very sour. Veba owns 10.5 per cent of C&W and has board representation. If Mr Brown's abrupt reversal does not sit well with his German shareholders, they could make life difficult.

Should Veba decide to get really nasty, it could double or triple that stake in C&W and start dictating terms to London. Mr Brown should not underestimate Veba's power. Its refusal last year to back the proposed C&W-BT merger unless C&W's German alliance was favoured over BT's was cited as one of the

main reasons behind the merger's failure.

Now the guessing starts. It is hard to imagine that Mr Brown thinks the German market, Europe's biggest, is no longer worth the effort. Perhaps he wants to attack it from another angle. One possibility is joining Global One, the alliance formed by Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Sprint, America's third largest long-distance phone company.

But C&W, for all its far-flung operations, is a minnow in comparison to Global One or its partners. C&W could offer Global One access to the Greater London market through Cable & Wireless Communications, the four-way merger of Mercury, and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable companies. That venture, however, is unproven, widely regarded as a marriage of weakness, and Global One could just as easily gain access to London's corporate market through growing rivals such as Colt and MFS.

Mr Brown will have to motor to make C&W a strong player in Europe, and the next few months could make or break the com-

pany. If he fails, he will face increasing institutional pressure to dismantle the group. Or was that the plan all along?

Running round in fruitless circle

□ THE only bit of the film *El Cid* that anyone can remember is when they tie his body to his horse and send it out to fight the final battle with the Moors. When Circle Communications came to the Alternative Investment Market in June, much was made of its ownership of the rights to *El Cid*, for some strange reason. Yesterday's news prompts one to wonder if the company rode on to the market in a similar state.

This one wins the Aerostructures Hamble Silver Platter (AIM Class) for the swiftest descent from placing prospectus to profit warning. Circle came out of a media company called MVI, whose only other conspicuous product was Talk Radio. Both were run by a couple of clever entrepreneurs, Peter Clark and Christopher Turner, who

had an impressive track record and the gift of the gab.

What they do not seem to have had is a business making profits that could be forecast to any reliable degree. Profits this year will be not less than the amount already reported for the first half — which means, to put it more bluntly, the company may not have made a red cent in the six months since it was floated. One of the few brokers to follow the company was rather hoping for £1.5 million this year. More worryingly, Mr Turner is off soon, we know not where or why. Tempting to shrug one's shoulders — just another dull AIM stock, these media companies you know, caveat emptor. Except that everyone tells us we should regard AIM as a serious market.

Sale at Dixons

□ ONE approaches the affairs of Dixons, and its volatile chairman, Sir Stanley Kalms, with trepidation. When the subject last came up, after he complained about an analysts' sell circular, Pennington broached the subject thus: "... one braces oneself for the inevitable phone call this morning". Strangely, the phone call never arrived. Now we know why. Sir Stanley, who sold a third of his personal stake last week, was busy taking the analysts' advice.

Sainsbury suffers setback with low Ladbroke refund

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JSAINSBURY, the embattled supermarket group, discovered yesterday that it will receive far less than expected from Ladbroke in the settlement of their dispute over Texas Homecare.

An independent arbitrator has decided that Ladbroke must repay £9.3 million to Sainsbury's. The City had expected it to recover at least £30 million, and perhaps as much as £70 million, from the £290 million it paid to acquire

Texas in March 1995. The disagreements over the final payment were referred for arbitration to Price Waterhouse in January 1996 and centred on an estimated net asset value of £155 million. The arbitrator has now decided that the price should be adjusted down to £280.7 million.

Ladbroke, which is delighted with the settlement, is to take a charge of £15.4 million for the financial year just ended. It will cover the repay-

ment, interest due on its settlement and provision for other related costs.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's denied that the amount was a disappointment. "We're extremely pleased to have reached a conclusion," he said.

But one food retail analyst commented: "It is a very disappointing figure." He pointed out that at the time of the acquisition Sainsbury's DIY arm was being run by Dino Adriano, who is now chief executive designate of the supermarket business. The reputations of Mr Adriano and David Sainsbury, chairman, have been questioned since they issued a profit warning ten days ago.

Mr Sainsbury was quoted at the weekend as saying "I am in the firing line." But analysts believe it is unlikely he will be forced out unless he fails to deliver a recovery in the 1997-98 financial year. The company is 40 per cent owned by the Sainsbury family.

There has been some concern that when Mr Sainsbury, Mr Adriano and David Bremner, the joint chief executive, met institutional investors before Christmas, they painted a relatively rosy picture. A spokesman said yesterday that there had been no deception and that many of the problems which led to the profit warning had not emerged at that time.

Sainsbury's shares, which have fallen nearly 18 per cent since the profit warning, edged up 1p yesterday to 323½p. Ladbroke shares rose 3½p to 232½p.

Ladbroke bets on A R Dennis

GORDON DENNIS stands to realise more than £20 million after selling A R Dennis, the family-owned bookmaker, to Ladbroke, the leisure group, for £31 million (Alesdair Murray writes).

Mr Dennis is retiring after 40 years with the business, set up by his father in 1935. The other shareholders, including his wife and family and Roy Thake, a director, will receive a total of £11 million.

A R Dennis is based in the South East and has 114 outlets. Ladbroke said it was buying the chain to improve its position in areas where it is lightly represented, although it will divest itself of three shops to meet Office of Fair Trading requirements. After the deal, Ladbroke will have 1,025 outlets. Ladbroke

said, the cost could be adjusted by £1.4 million depending on Dennis's performance in the next 12 months.

Ladbroke meanwhile tried to play down the importance of the revelations that it had talks a year ago with ITT, now the target of a \$6.4 billion bid by Hilton Hotels Corporation. Filings to the Securities & Exchange Commission show that the two considered a joint venture. The talks were inconclusive and Ladbroke agreed a joint venture with Hilton.

The market yesterday scoffed at suggestions that ITT, owner of Sheraton hotels, could counter-bid for Ladbroke. Analysts were generally positive on benefits for Ladbroke if Hilton's bid wins. *Tempus*, page 30



Allan Rich, right, the chairman and chief executive of The Media Business Group, and Stephen Allan, managing director, reported a 42 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £585,000. The dividend increases 17 per cent to 0.035p

KBC seeks £20m from flotation

KBC Advanced Technologies, a consultancy serving the oil refining industry, is raising £20 million via a stock market flotation that would value the company at more than £70 million (Fraser Nelson writes).

The move will make paper millionaires of Krikor Krikorian, John Brice and Peter Close, who founded the company 18 years ago and are due to share at least £28 million.

In the year to December 31 pre-tax profits more than doubled to £6.1 million (£2.7 million) on sales of £27.3 million (£17.6 million).

KBC employs 200 staff. About 80 own shares and each is on course for a shareholding worth £130,000 after the flotation. Dealings begin in March.

Dixons drops after baffling shares sale

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Dixons fell 7.4 per cent yesterday after the sale on Friday of more than one million shares by Sir Stanley Kalms, the retailer's chairman (See Pennington, this page).

Another factor behind the drop was a decision by analysts at Merrill Lynch to change their recommendation on the stock from "hold" to "reduce". The analysts are due to publish a note on Dixons later this week. They are believed to be particularly concerned that growth is set to stall at the group, with both household electrical goods and personal computer sales likely to slow down.

On Friday, Sir Stanley

raised around £5.7 million by exercising an option over 102,000 shares at 30p and selling them at 320p per share. The options were due to expire on Sunday. Simultaneously one million shares owned by him and his wife were also sold at 520p per share.

The company gave no reason for the decision to sell the one million shares and the move has baffled both analysts and investors. Sir Stanley still owns 2.1 million shares.

The sale is considered particularly strange in the light of Sir Stanley's anger at a "sell" note issued by another broker, Greig Middleton, last month. The shares fell 38p to 479p.

Circle warns of significant profit shortfall

CIRCLE Communications, the television rights company that floated on the AIM market last year, gave warning yesterday that profits in the 1996 financial year will fall "significantly below" City forecasts (Eric Reguly writes).

The shares, issued at 170p in a placing handled by Hambros Bank, closed at 120p, down 82½p or 41 per cent.

Circle said it expects pre-tax profits for the year to the end of December of "not less" than the £696,000 reported in the interim period. Peel Hunt, the broker, had predicted pre-tax profits of £1.1 million in 1996.

Christopher Turner, finance director, will be leaving the company shortly (see Pennington this page).

BAA sees long haul ahead on terminal

By CARL MORTSHAM

BAA is bracing itself for a long haul in its battle to secure planning permission for the proposed fifth terminal at Heathrow.

Delays have caused the timetable to slip and BAA now thinks the inquiry will not be completed by the end of the year. BAA's plans to have the terminal open by 2002.

BAA's plans could also be affected by Boeing's decision not to go ahead with the "super jumbo". BAA raised its operating profits for the nine months to December 9 per cent to £425 million, with pre-tax profits, including property sales, up 6 per cent to £397 million.

The figures were depressed by £8 million because of phasing out of the differential between peak and off-peak passenger charges. BAA said the £8 million would be recovered in the fourth quarter.

Its airports handled 76.6 million passengers during the nine months, generating a 5.5 per cent boost in regulated income to £385 million. The fire in the Channel Tunnel in November gave a further boost to strong traffic, with an estimated extra 50,000 passengers using the airports because of disruption to Eurostar rail services.

BAA's income from retailing grew a net 10.9 per cent to £331 million during the period, equating to an increase of 6.2 per cent in net retail income per passenger. Property income rose 8.4 per cent to £168 million. *Tempus*, page 30

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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

SFO makes legal history

A PIECE of legal history was made yesterday at the Old Bailey — by the Serious Fraud Office, no less.

In the course of its long-running fraud trial against Abbas Gokal, chairman of Gulf Group, a live TV link-up was used for the first time. A witness was linked from a conference studio in Geneva direct to a large screen in the Old Bailey. Meanwhile, Gokal, facing allegations of fraud and false accounting — the charge mentions \$12 billion, the largest single sum ever used in an indictment against an individual — will be looking for the prosecution to wrap up the case for him today.

Clarke honour

IN THE cut and thrust of this seemingly interminable pre-election campaign, it's good to know that Ken Clarke has the backing of at least one august body. He was yesterday made an honorary fellow of no lesser body than the Institute of Certified Book-keepers.

Wait for a break

MORE misery for Stephen Davidson. The acting chief executive of TeleWest, the largest cable TV company, was due to learn in November whether he was to be confirmed as full-time boss. Then it was January. Now there has been yet another delay while the company's US shareholders consider two other candidates — one from Pepsi International, the other a former Procter & Gamble man. Brace yourself for a flurry of promotions... supermarket cable channels coming your way.

Ladbroke



"Get your £9.3 million ready — here comes David Sainsbury"

Horlick's meal

THE £1 million woman was out partying with Salmon Brothers on Friday night. Nicola Horlick was a guest of Peter Middleton, chief executive, at a dinner to welcome new managing directors to the investment bank. Held at The Wallace Collection in Manchester Square, for about 150 people, Superwoman accompanied her husband Timothy, a managing director at Salmon's, who is said to have kept his head well down at work during the whole sorry affair. Word has it that her fellow guests kept very quiet — not one made a reference to babyfishers.

FRED WATT was in the spotlight yesterday. The aptly named finance director at Wassall, the small but acquisitive conglomerate, shed an interesting light on his company's purchase of 7.5 million shares in the Thorn Lighting Group.

Club's stand

ASTON VILLA is at last calling the shots. Potential investors who phone the football club switchboard will be greeted by a weary-sounding answer message. "If your query concerns a possible share flotation of the club, the directors have not taken any decision in relation to this matter. If and when they did, a share prospectus would be issued, and would be available through the normal sources, which would be widely publicised."

MORAG PRESTON

Colin Hook's abrupt departure from his job as managing director of Ivory & Stone yesterday sent a shockwave through the Scottish financial community. He is leaving the Edinburgh fund manager barely two weeks after he was given the public backing of Sir David Kinloch in an interview in the *Financial Times*. Sir David, who has taken over as the firm's executive chairman, is deputy chief executive of Caledonia Investments, the quoted Cayzer family company which is Ivory's biggest shareholder.

The upheaval — the latest in a long line of senior management departures to afflict Ivory over the past 20 years — raised doubts not only about Ivory's own future but about the survival of a strong and independent financial community in Scotland.

For the "Scottish mafia" is under siege. Ivory's problems came only a year after a management debacle at Dunedin led to it being swallowed up by the rival Edinburgh Fund Managers. Scottish Amicable, the re-

Reading between the lines of Kinloch's words and deeds

gion's third-largest life insurer, has blindly stumbled into an unwanted auction that looks likely to see it sold to the highest bidder.

Meanwhile, life offices like Scottish Life and Scottish Provident, and fund managers like Martin Currie, Stewart Ivory and Aberdeen Trust increasingly look too small to compete with the industry leviathans.

The head of one Edinburgh fund manager said: "Personally I am very sad for Ivory & Stone, as an Edinburgh company. This is about where we were last year with Dunedin. I find it very embarrassing. I don't think it's good for Scotland. We're not covering our-

selves with glory at the moment." In Glasgow, Alastair Haddow, chief investment officer of Murray Johnstone (itself now US owned), said: "My concern is that Scotland retains sufficient fund management operations to make us attractive to companies and brokers to come and visit. The worry is erosion, that we become marginalised."

Mr Hook's two-year tenure at Ivory has seen an improvement in its previously mediocre investment record, helped by his recruitment of John Stubbs from Postel (now Hermes), manager of the BT and Post Office pension funds. He scored a big success by

helping Ivory to hang on to British Asset, its flagship investment trusts, he made a couple of good acquisitions and increased profits.

Unfortunately, this progress did not make it any easier for his fund managers to enjoy working for him. A former Army officer who previously headed a Lloyd's action group, Mr Hook has been described as "a spare, ascetic ram-rod figure, distant and rather unapproachable". One former employee describes "an environment of secrecy rather than an environment of openness and discussion". After a trickle of senior departures, including that of Gordon Neilly, the business

development director, the crux came last month with the loss of Ivory's chief of UK equities and its entire small companies team. Mr Hook bunkered down one last time, refusing to speak to the riled Scottish press for a week.

Sir David has spent the past fortnight talking to the firm's staff and clients, eventually concluding that Mr Hook's personality was too great a problem to overcome — regardless of his public assurances.

Sir David wants to make Ivory more "user friendly", and has reassured Caledonia's commitment to the firm. Most rival managers accept this is not a rerun of Dunedin, and that Caledonia has yet to put up the "for sale" sign. But one insider observed: "Do Caledonia really want to lose their deputy chief executive to one of their investee companies? They will tell you no [they do not want to sell], but you can read between the lines."

PAUL DURMAN

Standing by for a quick trip on the election gravy train

Clare Stewart on the services that prosper when Britain goes to the polls



Coming up roses: Maureen and Jeff Moore preparing for the Lib Dems campaign

John Major may not have named the day but Jeff Moore is ready. He has nearly 30 kilometres of orange ribbon standing by together with some 20,000 pins and a few quarts of glue.

When the election date is set, Mr Moore, who runs Showtime Rosettes in Suffolk, will spring into action. He and his staff of two have a bulk order from the Liberal Democrats that means 20,000 rosettes to be stitched, frilled and assembled for dispatch around the country.

On top of which he has orders from a number of other parliamentary hopefuls who are keen to equip themselves with some rather festive rosettes (three tiers and more flowers) before they go out to press the flesh and kiss babies.

Showtime is one of a diverse range of businesses on which the forthcoming election will make an impact, not least because, in total, the parties are set to spend record amounts on their 1997 campaign. Mr Moore expects his turnover this year to be ten times higher.

Not only will the current campaign be one of the longest — skirmishes began last summer — but there is a new big spender in the shape of the Referendum Party, bankrolled by Sir James Goldsmith, who has provided a £20 million advertising budget.

The business of a UK general election may be small beer alongside the US but, nonetheless, it provides a steady stream of orders for a range of companies. Given the restriction on spending at local party level, most of the significant buying is at national level. Once an election is called, each constituency's candidates have to work within an equal budget defined by the size of the local electorate. Typically this may be only about £7,000 to £8,000, the largest proportion of which will be for printing leaflets, but also has to cover administration costs, whether telephone calls or cups of tea.

In 1992 the Tories spent about £10 million on publicity alone. Labour's entire election budget was just under £11 million, and that of the Liberal Democrats £2 million. What is certain is that the largest proportion of the main parties' multimillion-pound campaigns is spent on high-profile poster and press advertising.

Last year, according to Register Media, the media research group, the Referendum Party spent nearly £35 million on press and poster advertising between January and November, outgunning the Conservatives' spend of £22 million and Labour's £15 million.

On an advertising spend of at least £10 million for the Conservatives, M&C Saatchi

can look forward to a £1 million fee. Advertising agencies usually earn between 10 and 12 per cent of the budget, which means that Bank Hoggins O'Shea, the agency handling the Referendum Party, is also set to net a substantial sum.

The high-profile work will also put the creative agency in the spotlight. The former Saatchi and Saatchi agency made its reputation on work for the Conservative Party, says Stefano Hatfield, editor of *Campaign*, the advertising industry magazine. "But there used to be no prestige attached to handling old Labour. Now that it looks as if Labour might win that has changed."

Much attention to date has focused on the Conservative and Labour poster campaigns. The large poster companies, owners of key billboard sites,

are well aware that they hold an important medium for the political message. "It is perceived that outdoor advertising allows communications in its purest form, unadorned by other messages," says Michael Higgins, managing director of More O'Ferrall, the poster company.

Strong demand, particularly in the final stages of an election campaign, has the effect of hardening the rates that poster companies can charge. But, says Francis Goodwin, managing director of Maiden Group, the importance of an election should not be overplayed. "It does have a positive impact but it is not a gold rush. We have a fixed supply of sites so once they are sold, they are sold, which means demand from political parties may be

displacing other advertisers." In addition, elections spell uncertainty, which may affect spending plans by other advertisers. But, says Mr Goodwin, the increasing use of poster sites by the parties does bring other election benefits. "As a soundbite medium, poster campaigns generate a lot of press comment. That has a positive spin-off for us in the longer term."

Elections also provide some useful extra business for smaller poster companies like Freight Media, which runs a fleet of mobile poster lorries. Nicholas Lees, the managing director, says that whether it is taking a new poster campaign direct to party headquarters for a photo-call or to key constituencies, political groups use mobile sites to add a tactical spin to campaigns. Alison Holmes, election

planning manager for the Liberal Democrats, says that in the last election mobile poster lorries were found to be very effective. "Because we do not have a lot of money it is costly to book poster sites in advance and mobile poster vans were more flexible."

Newspaper groups can also count on an election surge in advertising bookings and political parties are all certain to be paying top rates to get the space they want in a newspaper, say media buyers. Newspapers offer the advantage of access to a wide audience, and short lead-in times, enabling space to be booked at relatively short notice for up-to-the-minute messages to be carried.

But election business, however lucrative, can prove something of a mixed blessing. By definition it is short-lived, and may only be generated in the three weeks up to election day.

"When an election is called we go berserk," said one market research executive. Once the election clock has started, opinion polls proliferate, with national newspapers, for example, upping the frequency of polls reporting from monthly to weekly. MORI, the research group that carries out polls for *The Times*, will also be conducting exit polls for ITN on election day, and estimates that in an election year turnover from political polling more than doubles.

Planning can also be a problem while the date of the election is unknown. MEI Design, a London-based group, is responsible for designing and managing the election rallies as well as the daily press conferences planned by the Liberal Democrats in the election run-up.

Once the election date is announced we will have a team on the road looking after three different stage formats for the rallies which will be at 20 venues round the country," explains Richard Dale, a director of MEI. "Uncertainty about the date adds an extra dimension to planning, particularly when it comes to booking venues."

For printers the problem is one of manning. "You cannot employ people for election work because it is too short term," says Archie Craig, who runs Craig and Stewart Printers in Gowan, Scotland. The company's biggest customer is the Scottish National Party, for which it prints much of the party's election literature.

Election work boosts turnover by about 20 per cent, Mr Craig estimates, and there are signs that 1997 is set to be significantly busier. "We usually use two to three tonnes of paper a month, but we will probably treble that in the run-up to the election."

Meanwhile, as the nation waits for Mr Major's choice of election day, Mr Moore at Showtime Rosettes is working his way through the orange ribbons. Elections may generate large orders, but with a summer season of dog shows and gymnastics around the corner, he has his regular customers to consider. He would be much obliged, therefore, if the Prime Minister opts for an early date.

American pie for stodgy Europeans

On the intellectual pikes of Davos, continental European types clad in designer knitwear took stately rides up the funicular railway to the Schatzalp for a long lunch in the mountains. Quaffing good Burgundy, they watched as vulgar Americans whooped past on fluorescent snowboards.

There was true excitement and dynamism about American participants in the World Economic Forum debate, something faintly snooty and clay-footed about many of their European colleagues.

Bill Gates, of Microsoft, and Andrew Grove, of Intel, yesterday picked up one strand of this contrast, warning that Europe was lagging badly in developing new technologies. But Europeans also looked behind the times in the way they run their economies. The driving spirit of debate was the view that deregulation and flexibility, unleashing the dynamism of the private sector, is the only route to competitiveness.

In this debate, America reigned supreme, with Britain, as ever, a pale but earnest tryer in its shadow. America is entering its seventh year of recovery with robust growth, low inflation, falling unemployment and booming investment. For its part, Britain is entering its sixth year of recovery, also without much inflation and with more jobs. Its investment record comes nowhere near to matching the performance in America and its jobs market may be a frightening place to be, but its potential is much improved for the structural reforms undertaken in the 1980s.

Europe makes a poor comparison in many respects. Unemployment is an awesome problem, its leaders are scared stiff of how their electorates will react if some of their privileges and protections are taken away, broader economic debate is stifled by the overwhelming obsession of building monetary union and central banks are obsessed, to the exclusion of virtually everything else, with fighting inflation.

Giving rein to the private sector in America has been a success because it has combined with an attempt to promote as much demand as possible. As Larry Summers, Deputy Treasury Secretary, put it: "Our model is to make the pie as large as possible so that it gives us the chance to get all the other things right." Macroeconomic policy in the past few years had been excellent, he said. The dynamism of the American private sector had done the rest.

This is the intellectual background to today's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee and tomorrow's locking of horns between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George.

One of the key indicators of the success of structural change is the fact that interest rates can be kept lower during upswings, that growth is allowed to keep some of its momentum, that unemployment can be allowed to go on falling in America and Britain, there are high hopes that interest rates will be held.

The news in the days before the FOMC meeting could not have been better for interest rate doves. The GDP figures showed super growth of 4.7 per cent in the fourth quarter

(probably exaggerated by export figures that looked too good to be true) but a fall in the implicit price deflator to 1.4 per cent. In addition, the widely watched employment cost index showed that wages and salaries rose only 0.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, suggesting that there are still no significant wage pressures.

In Britain, Mr Clarke has been so adamant that he doesn't want to raise rates that it makes weary old cynics nervous. There is an argument for giving in to the Bank. The Chancellor could concede a quarter point (not a half, get the Bank to agree publicly that he had done the right thing and that policy was "up with the curve" and remove any doubts about his willingness to sacrifice economic policy on the altar of electability.

After pouring scorn in Davos on Gordon Brown's as yet unquantified inflation target Mr Clarke would have been watching the Shadow Chancellor cast around for a reaction to such a "prudent" and nakedly unpolicy move. On balance, however, he may decide that a delicious bit of point scoring is not worth the rise in mortgage rates it would cause and certainly not if the Prime Minister is still flirting with a March election.

A key indicator of the success of structural change is that interest rates can be kept lower

Impact of £17bn building society windfalls dismissed too lightly — unless Treasury backs a windfall tax?

From Mr Maurice Fitzpatrick Sir, You comment (Pennington, January 15) on the limits to the extent of the consumer boom anticipated in the next year or so. In particular, you suggest that forthcoming building society windfalls will not have a major impact on consumer spending. In support of this thesis, you refer to a survey by Nikko Europe which found that two thirds of the windfalls to come are likely to be saved. I wonder if you are correct to dismiss the impact of building society windfalls so lightly.

The value of the windfalls from the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester flotations this summer is estimated at £17 billion (Analysis, same issue).

If a third of this were spent, this would add around £6 billion to consumer spending. Suppose this £6 billion were spent over (say) a two-year period. This would be equivalent to the injection into consumer spending of a cut of over 1.5p in the basic rate of income tax for the two-year period concerned.

Coming on top of other

bullish consumer spending signals (rising real earnings, house prices climbing, and relatively low nominal interest rates) such an injection is surely not insignificant.

Digressing slightly, what price a building society windfall tax? Levied at (say) 15 per cent on what appears to be a manna from Heaven, it would (God forbid) be a nice little earner for the Treasury. Yours faithfully, M. C. FITZPATRICK, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, WC1.

ACCA is filling a gap with new qualification for accountancy profession

From the President of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants Sir, You published two reactions to ACCA's launch of a new, technician-level, qualification for the accountancy profession.

Mr Francis Bergh (Business Letters, January 3) refers to ACCA "setting up yet another institute". In fact, ACCA is simply extending its range of examination-based qualifications. ACCA will be establishing a new membership body, nor do we support the proliferation of accountancy bodies, whether chartered or non-chartered. Robert Bruce suggests ("The

background shifts to education", January 9) that ACCA's move has caused a squabble among the six CCAB bodies. In fact, the Association of Accounting Technicians, which currently provides a technician-level accountancy qualification in the UK, is not a member of CCAB and has little to do with relations between the professional bodies which comprise CCAB's membership.

AAT chose to move away from the examinations-based system that was bequeathed to it by ACCA, towards a system of national vocational qualifications based on a com-

bination of devolved and central assessments. In doing so, it left a gap in the market, especially overseas, because many colleges and employers have found the NVQ system too cumbersome and costly. ACCA did not create this gap (indeed, as an AAT sponsoring body, we opposed it). In a competitive market, however, we are happy to fill the gap by extending our suite of examinations down a tier, in order to make an examination-based technician level qualification available to all those who want one.

Robert Bruce also quotes AAT as criticising ACCA's

pass rates, suggesting that unrealistic expectations are created among overseas students in the interests of revenue. In Singapore (the example cited), ACCA has under 10,000 (not 15,000) students, of whom less than 2,000 are taking the final-level examinations in any given year. About a quarter of these students are successful each year, a pass rate which is far higher than AAT's in Singapore. Yours faithfully, P. A. LANGARD, The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 29 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

UK anger over German coal subsidies

By Christine Buckley

BRITAIN has become embroiled in a fresh dispute with Europe over industrial aid after UK coal producers said that their way to the German market had been blocked.

Richard Page, the Under Secretary of State responsible for small business, industry and energy, said yesterday that the Government had lobbied the European Commission over German subsidies to its coal industry.

They mean that Germany can significantly undercut UK prices. Several UK companies have said that they have failed to win business from German power stations. Germany has also been hit with a further complaint from the UK to the European Commission over exports of anthracite to Britain. Anthracite, which is used largely used for domestic fuel, has been sold in Britain at below production costs, UK coalminers claim.

Mr Page said UK coal producers could easily beat the production costs of other EU producers, but found this competitive advantage nullified by subsidies. "We hope that the German Government and the Commission will address any such unintended distortion of competition."

British coal producers, which also face difficulties because of cheap gas supplies and the strong pound, have tried to win concessions from the Government, but Mr Page has said such appeals are unrealistic.

Germany has faced challenges to its coal subsidies before. Several years ago Coal Products, a UK maker of smokeless fuel, mounted legal action that resulted in an out-of-court settlement.

The Department of Trade and Industry has set up a team to scrutinise the effects of subsidies in European coal markets.



Hamish Bryce, TLG executive chairman, left, and Malcolm Robertson, financial director, saw their shares light up

Alcatel wins support for Thomson CSF bid

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

ALCATEL ALSTHOM has won key backing from Aérospatiale and Dassault in its struggle with Lagardère to buy Thomson, the French defence electronics group.

With Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, saying he will give details of the sell-off procedure by the end of the month, Alcatel is set to table a joint offer with Aérospatiale and Dassault, themselves undergoing a merger. The Government rejected the telecommunications group's first offer for Thomson before the original privatisation procedure collapsed in December. Alcatel believes that the new defence and aerospace concern's support could be decisive.

However, Lagardère remains a strong contender even though France's privatisation commission ignored the Government's advice and turned down the

firm's joint bid with South Korea's Daewoo at the end of last year. Reports in France suggest Lagardère, which owns Matra Defence, could join forces with GEC, although the British company's involvement is likely to awaken hostility within the French defence establishment.

A consortium formed by Alcatel, Aérospatiale and Dassault would present no such difficulties, with its supporters arguing that it would reinforce France's defence and electronics industries.

Alcatel would provide most of the cash to buy the State's 38 per cent stake in Thomson; Aérospatiale would transfer in its satellite and missiles business, and Dassault its electronics activities.

These moves would hasten President Chirac's ambition to restructure the French defence

industry around the merger between Aérospatiale and Dassault. Alcatel would transfer its own defence activities into Thomson CSF to become the principal shareholder in what would be the world's third-largest such group.

However, questions still remain over the future of Thomson Multimedia. Thomson's troubled consumer electronics arm, with Fr14 billion debts, the company excited little interest, apart from that shown by Daewoo, under the original privatisation, and it is unclear whether Alcatel would want to keep control of Thomson Multimedia or sell it on if the joint offer bid was successful.

Analysts say the battle between Lagardère and Alcatel will be determined largely by the privatisation procedure chosen by a government that has already been severely em-

barrassed by the failure of its first attempt to sell Thomson. After accusations that his plans for a private placement were hazy and under-considered, M Juppé is under pressure to float Thomson in a public sale. But if he did so, there is speculation that Lagardère would withdraw.

His embarrassment is illustrated by his delay in settling a question that he wanted to lay to rest by the end of last month. Yesterday, he said: "Between now and the end of February we will be in a position to announce very clearly the procedure, which I want to be as clear and as transparent as possible."

Tempus, page 30.

Wassall's 4.1% stake sparks talk of TLG bid

By Sarah Cunningham

WASSALL, the acquisitive mini-conglomerate, has bought a 4.1 per cent stake in TLG, the former Thorn Lighting Group.

News of the purchase of the 7.5 million shares, carried out over several weeks at a cost of more than £7.5 million, sparked speculation that a takeover of TLG is on the cards. It sent TLG's shares 13½p higher to 118p.

Fred Watt, finance director of Wassall, said the stake has been bought as an investment. "We have money to invest in the UK and this looked like an interesting investment opportunity," he said. He declined to rule out the possibility of making a bid for TLG, however.

City analysts doubted that an intention to launch a full bid was behind Wassall's purchase. One said the move could be designed to attract an outside predator, or to force management to enhance shareholder value.

TLG issued a profit warning last September, sending its shares down from around 170p to below the 115p price at which the company floated in November 1995. In December it delivered interim pre-tax profits 27 per cent down at £8.3 million. The company said it had been hit by a simultaneous downturn in all its main markets.

Since then, several directors, including Hanshi Bryce, the executive chairman, have bought shares. Mr Bryce said yesterday: "This is a strong, focused company, with a clear strategy."

Shares in Wassall rose 7½p to 320p. The company has made several major acquisitions over the past five years and Chris Miller, chief executive, said last September that the company was "in an excellent position to finance acquisition and investment opportunities".

Sema pays £27m for BR Business System

SEMA is paying £27 million for BR Business System (BRBS), giving the Anglo-French computer services group its fourth transport computer infrastructure business in Europe. The deal, which Sema says will enhance its earnings, gives the group a 65 per cent share of the £135 million market in providing railway operators with computer systems to manage timetables, ticket issuing and asset management. Sema will inherit all 1,100 of BRBS's workers, taking its UK staff to 5,100. The group said that it would use the company to win contracts in the bus and air industries, after the success of similar contracts in France, Spain and The Netherlands. BRBS has assets of £13.2 million, and turned over £87 million in the year to March 31. Sema was named as preferred bidder for BRBS last week, beating Andersen Consulting, EDS and Cap Gemini. The group has settled the deal in cash and says the acquisition will enhance earnings in the first year. Sema shares closed 10p off, at £10.92½, yesterday.

Midland acquisition

MIDLAND Independent Newspapers, the regional newspaper company that owns the Birmingham Post and Coventry Evening Telegraph, yesterday bought the Hinckley Times, a weekly newspaper in Leicestershire that has been published since 1899. The price was not disclosed, but it was thought to be small. The newspaper has net assets of only £1.7 million and a circulation of about 16,500. Midland is also buying John Baxter and Sons (Hinckley) Ltd, an associated general printing and stationery business.

Rolls-Royce order

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aerospace group, has received an order from South African Airways for engines to power an additional two Boeing 747-400 jumbos for the airline in a deal worth about £50 million. The new aircraft, due to be delivered in May and October 1998, have been ordered to meet increased passenger traffic between South Africa and the US. The RB211 family has accumulated almost 74 million service hours and airlines around the world currently operate 155 RB211-524 powered jumbos on a range of long-haul routes.

Litho buys Muromail

LITHO SUPPLIES, the supplier of printing and graphic arts products, is paying £2.2 million for Muromail, which supplies binding systems, laminating equipment and signmaking products. Muromail, based at Weston-super-Mare, earned pre-tax profits of £333,153 in the year to September 30, on sales of £4.8 million. Net assets were £690,625 at September 30. The purchase price is payable over two years, with £1.6 million to be paid on completion and £600,000 12 months later.

ISA expands in France

ISA INTERNATIONAL, the European distributor of branded computer consumable products, has made two acquisitions to expand in France. It is acquiring ASDV SA, a distributor of computer products based near Paris, for £1.25 million. In its last financial year ASDV earned pre-tax profits of £189,700 on turnover of £16 million. ISA has also acquired Médias Systèmes, based in Bordeaux, which earned pre-tax profits of £298,800 on sales of £7.3 million in the last financial year.

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12/29/97	Low Company	Price	±	%	12/29/97	Low Company	Price	±	%
4	1222	37	1222	37	1222	149	149	149	149
5	1222	40	1222	40	1222	150	150	150	150
6	1222	43	1222	43	1222	151	151	151	151
7	1222	46	1222	46	1222	152	152	152	152
8	1222	49	1222	49	1222	153	153	153	153
9	1222	52	1222	52	1222	154	154	154	154
10	1222	55	1222	55	1222	155	155	155	155
11	1222	58	1222	58	1222	156	156	156	156
12	1222	61	1222	61	1222	157	157	157	157
13	1222	64	1222	64	1222	158	158	158	158
14	1222	67	1222	67	1222	159	159	159	159
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31	1222	118	1222	118	1222	176	176	176	176
32	1222	121	1222	121	1222	177	177	177	177
33	1222	124	1222	124	1222	178	178	178	178
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35	1222	130	1222	130	1222	180	180	180	180
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OPERA 1
Carmen comes to Kensington: Ralph Koltai prepares to build Seville at the Albert Hall



OPERA 2
Does English National Opera's future lie in exploring a lighter repertoire?

THE TIMES ARTS

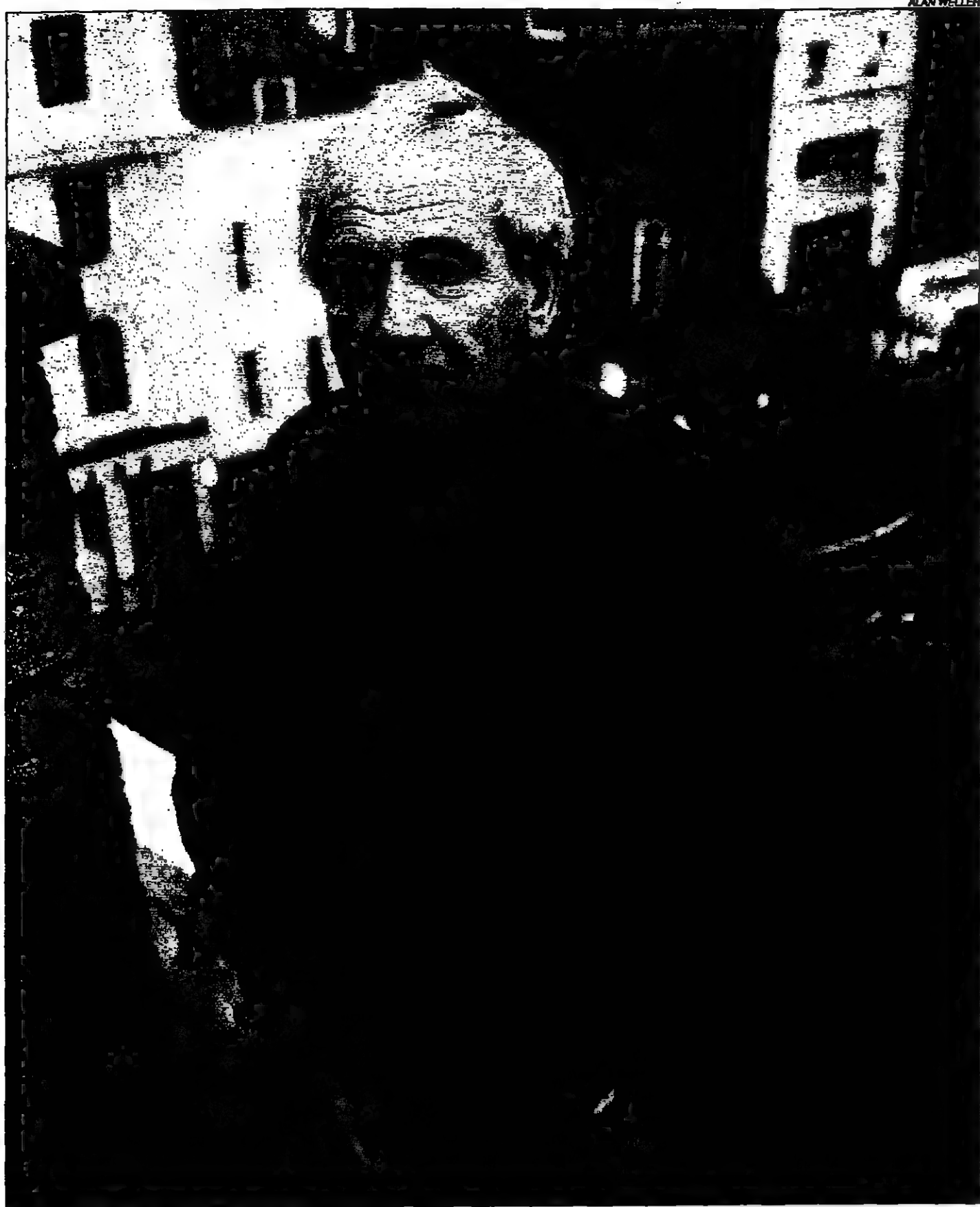


CD CHOICE
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TOMORROW
Set in concrete: on the eve of his Royal Academy show, Sir Denys Lasdun speaks up for Modernism

OPERA: How to blow up Bizet to blockbuster proportions. Plus a cool look at the future of the Coliseum



Ralph Koltai: "We need to find ways in drama and dance of moving into the 21st century. There is a great lagging behind in opera"

Blood and sex by the bucketful

Andy Lavender talks to the designer who has to fill the Albert Hall with Carmen

When Raymond Gubbay produced *La Bohème* at the Albert Hall last year, the event attracted huge numbers and ruffled nearly as many feathers. Here was opera on the grand scale, taking place for a mixed audience in the nation's most cavernous village hall. For the purists, however, this was a vulgar and bombastic affair, playing (brazenly, because of sound amplification) to the gallery.

Can you make opera in such a place and on such a scale? Gubbay's latest project is a production of Bizet's *Carmen*, again at the Albert Hall, and it falls to a different creative team to resolve the question. There is every sign that this time the production will respond elegantly. The director is Frank Dunlop, whose long experience includes a period as director of the Edinburgh Festival. And the designer — the man responsible for giving shape to the Albert Hall's airy spaces — is Ralph Koltai.

This, at least, is guarantee of a certain artistic quality. Koltai is now one of the elder statesmen of international stage design. He came to England from his native Hungary when he was 13, and still speaks with an accent larded with the timbres of Central Europe. "I have a certain cosmopolitan nature in me which is quite helpful," he agrees. "But I consider myself lucky that I've had my career in this country, where I was brought up with a sense of integrity to the work that I do." He has designed more than 200 productions around the world, and his string of credits reaches back to 1950.

When were Koltai's halcyon days? In the Sixties, perhaps, when he dashed from the Royal Shakespeare Company to America to Australia, developing his artfully bold style? Or the Seventies, when he designed his resoundingly inventive *Ring for English National Opera*? Or perhaps the Eighties when, as associate designer of the RSC, he worked on a series of significant productions, fitting in operas and musicals as he went? Or are his best years still ahead, as he embarks on projects in different continents with no apparent loss of energy?

"The only reason for going on is to try to see whether you can discover something new," he says. "Mostly you don't, but every now and then you do. With *Carmen* I was working in a different environment — such a huge space — and it allowed me to find something different." Koltai's design for this production is characteristically evocative. The façade of a Latin building towers up at the back, overlooking an arena bounded by a walkway. The shapes and proportions are rounded rather than sharply delineated, and the colours — warm yellows and oranges — are vibrant and inviting.

"What is *Carmen* about? Sexual jealousy, heat, passion, blood," Koltai explains. "The heat quality is evoked through the colours I've used. And I took advantage of the height, because you can be more truthful in the relationship between the human figure and the architecture. If you take an average theatre, the proscenium cut-off is normally about 24 feet, so if you put up a piece of architecture it can never be more than about 22 feet high, whereas the Albert Hall is enormously tall. But it does have huge architectural distractions, in that you look at the people sitting on the opposite side of the acting space to you. So I've tried to create a structure which is a little bit more overwhelming."

If that makes the designer seem preoccupied with large visual statements, Koltai would have you think again. "In all theatre the fundamental necessity is to help the performer to feel at ease in the space in which he is performing," he says. "The greatest compliment I can ever have for the work is when I have it from the actor."

Not that the audience is far from Koltai's mind. "I think the spirit of Raymond Gubbay's ideas — bring-

ing in a wider public — is excellent," Koltai affirms. "And I do believe that we need to find ways in drama and dance of moving into the 21st century. There is a great lagging behind in opera, especially. There is far too much 19th-century opera being presented in a 19th-century attitude. The more we can develop the art form, the better."

Spoken like a free spirit. Koltai has always been abreast of the times. He was one of the earliest champions of the "concept" production, for instance, enlivening old pieces through imaginative new treatments. That said, he uses unfashionable words like "integrity" and "honesty" a lot when discussing his artistic philosophy. From the uncluttered lounge of his Soho flat he explains that expressive design, in his book, is not a question of showing off. "I'm in favour of concept productions only when they're not wilful and self-indulgent. To have a concept which is simply a piece of self-advertisement is unacceptable. We are in a period where promoting yourself is very much the thing. That is the nature of our society at the moment. It has lost some of its honesty in approaching the arts. It's no doubt temporary."

Koltai himself is moving on, partly by looking back. He is organising a retrospective of his work which will be shown in Holborn towards the end of the year. The RSC is rebuilding the set he designed for a production of *Baal*, and costumes and other materials are being sent by museums in Japan and America. The international traffic is two-way, as Koltai is soon to design a production of *Timon of Athens* in Chicago and a new play in Copenhagen. An international artist, then — but with a distinctive, individual stamp. "I think it is probably a simplification, a stylisation, and my commitment to trying to find a metaphor for the work," Koltai answers. "But I don't want people to come out and sing the setting that I've devised. I hope they've enjoyed the evening and that I have been helpful."

● *Carmen* is at the Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) from Thursday to Feb 15

Keep quiet, ENO, and stay put

Rodney Milnes says that until the climate shifts in favour of opera, the Coliseum is a good enough home

Now that the dust has settled over the up-roar caused by the KPMG feasibility study into the future of ENO and the Coliseum, the time may be ripe for a cooler look at the issues involved. For those with short memories, the study recommended the building of a brand new, 2,100-seat opera house on an as yet unspecified site at the cost of around £100 million (to be funded largely from the lottery), and reactions in the media were almost

universally hostile, to an extent that may (but shouldn't) have surprised the ENO management.

The 66-page summary was a curiously unsatisfactory document, as devoid of historical or cultural context as the Stevenson report (1995) into the provision of lyric theatre in London that preceded and

spawned it. It concentrated on management and theoretical audience needs, while ignoring those of singers, players, and indeed the art form itself.

Un peu d'histoire, as they say in the Michelin guides, ENO is Britain's oldest surviving opera company, founded by Lilian Baylis — the nearest we have come to a Diaghilev and ripe for canonisation — in the early years of the century and settling at Sadler's Wells in 1931. When the Johnnie-come-lately Covent Garden Opera Company was launched exactly 50 years ago, also performing in English, Sadler's Wells Opera company was promised a new home on the South Bank, to be shared with the National Theatre. Denys Lasdun's impressive designs survive for all to see. This plan was killed off in the corridors of power, and conspiracy theorists still speculate about the guilty parties.

Hence the Coliseum. Deprived of its promised home the management took a lease on the prime West End site of the Coliseum in 1968, with the full support of the Arts Council. There were drawbacks — the Coliseum is not too friendly to young singers, and its acoustics can be tricky. But the greatest anomaly was the existence of two opera houses with capacities of more than 2,000 within a few hundred yards of each other, playing repertoires, albeit in different languages, that in the 1970s and 1980s overlapped by as much as a third.

For a while opera-company dynamics minimised the difficulties, yet the problem of two opera houses of the same size serving the capital would not go away, and the birth and development of regional companies intensified it. Not only are the London houses too big for Mozart, Rossini and all earlier opera, but visitors to



Dennis Marks should have faith in his achievements at the Coliseum

Cardiff, Glasgow and Leeds start to notice that all save a few Wagner and "big" Verdi operas work far better in the size of theatre for which they were written — say, £200-£300. And there is a whole swathe of repertoire that for reasons of economy and scale cannot be staged at the big London houses.

This is what might be called the Volkoper, or opera-cum-musical repertoire, mention of which drives the current ENO bosses into a frenzy of paranoia — they imagine they are about to be exiled to a municipal theatre in Neasden to perform *Merrie England*. They shouldn't be so negative: the Vienna Volkoper reper-

should be examined much more closely. Remember that 60 per cent of Coliseum audiences come from outside the capital, that it is on a direct Tube line to all but one of the mainline stations, and rejoice — it really is a prime site.

But mainly the management should take heart from its own achievements. Under Dennis Marks it has turned round a poor box-office record: it has tackled the crucial matter of diction; a talented new musical director, Paul Daniel, is coming aboard; the Royal Opera is about to go walkabout for three years. Keep jolly quiet, get on with the job, and consolidate — boring, I know, but prudent.

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with the Radio 3 programme

GLUCK'S ORFEO
Reviewed by Julian Budden

BEFORE the revival of interest in the Baroque repertoire from Monteverdi to Handel it was always taken for granted that the earliest full-length opera capable of holding the modern stage was Gluck's "action theatre per musica" based on the famous Orpheus legend, the first of his so-called "reform" operas, written for Vienna in 1762. Twelve years later he rewrote it in a French text for Paris as a "tragedie lyrique" in the tradition of Lully and Rameau, adding extra numbers to fill out the evening and changing the male lead from alto castrato to high tenor ("haut castré").

In a highly idiosyncratic version of the opera made for the great mezzo-soprano, Pauline Viardot Garcia, in 1859 Berlioz restored the original pitches. His example was followed by the publishing house of Ricordi who in 1899 produced an edition of the Paris score of 1774 with text translated into Italian. And this is the version that we usually hear in the theatre, shorn of some of the concluding dances.

Generally speaking, in 18th-century opera the first, untried editions are best (in the 19th century the opposite is true). The trouble is that the Paris score of *Orfeo*, like Mozart's revised *Don Giovanni* of 1788, contains new music of such beauty that we can hardly hear to do without it.

Among the various permutations and combinations to be found on the 18 recordings currently available (some in Italian, some in French, one in German) I would recommend to those who wish to experience the sum of Gluck's thinking on the subject the version conducted by Raymond Leppard (Erato 2292-45864-2, 2-CD). With a splendid Orfeo in Dame Janet Baker and the dances brilliantly rendered by



the London Philharmonic Orchestra. But if you want the opera in all its pristine freshness I would point you to a performance of the original Vienna score by John Eliot Gardiner (Philips 434 093-2, 2-CD, £30.99), played on period instruments and boasting in Derek Lee Ragin a male "haïseter" probably as near to a genuine castrato as we shall ever get.

Should you want the Berlioz version for its curiosity value, I would indicate the same conductor with the Lyons Opera Orchestra (EMI CDS 7 49834-2, 2-CD). For me his touch with Gluck never fails.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCODRY, Fosse, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

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Mozart

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■ VISUAL ART 1

In the pink: the National Gallery mounts a rewarding show of the young Gainsborough



■ VISUAL ART 2

Animal magic: the feline portraits of Elsie Henderson go on display in London

THE TIMES ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

... while Brian Yale, at the age of 60, makes his West End debut with a collection of cool landscapes



■ VISUAL ART 4

... and the influence of Maltese geology can be seen in Paul Stevenson's latest paintings



Mr and Mrs Andrews, one of the highlights of the National Gallery's exhibition: "Gainsborough's fervent response to the Suffolk countryside gives this outstanding canvas its ability to delight"

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the National Gallery's Gainsborough show

The gentrification of a boy from the country

The freshness and doll-like charm of Gainsborough's early portraits may tempt us to imagine that he was a simple country lad, astonishingly precocious yet unsophisticated. After all, he grew up in sequestered Sudbury, and his youthful view of Cornard Wood suggests that he was happiest when painting the Suffolk landscape familiar to him, since childhood.

The truth, however, is far removed from such a myth. Without labouring the point, the National Gallery's modest yet appealing exhibition discloses that its contents were in no sense the work of an untutored provincial. Gainsborough's unusual gifts ensured that, at the age of 13, he was sent to London. Although attached at first to a silversmith, he soon became a pupil of the virtuoso French artist Hubert Gravelot, whose Rococo style helped to revolutionise English taste in the 1740s. The teacher's vitality surely stimulated the young Gainsborough, and his debt to French art has been underestimated.

But a confident painting of the bull terrier Bumper, executed when he was only 18, proves that his debt to Dutch art was even greater. The deftly summarised landscape behind the animal is influenced by Jan. Winants, and the National Gallery clinches the connection by displaying a newly cleaned painting by this skilful Dutch artist from its own collection. Even Gainsborough's drawings, seemingly so effortless in their response to trees, mossy banks, pools and plants, view the English countryside with the help of foreign artists' eyes. A deft black chalk study of a bird's head may appear the outcome of a chance

encounter on a rural ramble, but it relies very heavily on similar images by Winants.

Even so, too much can be made of influence-spotting. Once all the links with continental prototypes have been established, it is worth stressing that Gainsborough turned them all to individual account. His painting of Bumper announces a love of dogs that runs as a quiet personal motif throughout the show. In Cornard Wood they appear in several places, sleeping near a man binding a bundle of branches, nuzzling a young woman's flank, padding behind a traveller and glimpsed only in hind-quarters on a winding path.

Gainsborough could not resist including canine companions in many of his portraits as well. A dog laps water beside the artist himself, as he flaunts a crimson waistcoat beside his tilted wife and alarmingly red-cheeked daughter. Similar animals lie beside Mr and Mrs Kirby, or sniff devotedly at John Plampin as he leans with languorous elegance against a tree trunk. The dogs add an engaging note of informality

to portraits already seeking escape from an excess of posed stiffness. Plampin's remarkably relaxed legs derive from a Watteau portrait of Antoine de la Roque, who had been wounded by a cannon-ball at the battle of Malplaquet. The injury led Watteau to paint his friend with one leg projecting rigidly in the air. But Gainsborough changed the pose into a far more inconspicuous affair, letting Plampin rest his left leg on a grassy hillock while the other dangles down to touch the earth below.

This search for spontaneity, epitomised by the portrait of a young man who raises one hand in an impulsive gesture as he talks to his pretty companion, is matched by Gainsborough's handling of paint. Even in a careful early picture, *Wooded Landscape with Peasant Resting*, the conscientious treatment of foliage is suddenly enlivened by a flash of sunlight on a distant cornfield. The brushstrokes loosen here, to enhance the drama of this transient break in an otherwise overcast sky.

But Gainsborough's mark-making really takes on a sprightliness of

its own when he turns his attention to women's clothes. The pink dress worn by the lady in *Conversation in a Park* is brushed in with breathtaking fluency. Captivated by the sheer light on silk, he discovers a deft way of letting the pigment dance, slide, wriggle and flash on the surface of the material. It is a consummate performance for an artist no more than 21 years old. Gainsborough already had a more insouciant and supple feeling for the expressive possibilities of paint than his future rival, Reynolds, would ever command.

This exhibition reveals a young man intoxicated by his own mercurial agility with the brush, nowhere more seductively than in the thin white material fizzing like water-spray down the centre of his wife's dress. It seems to have been painted in a rush of excitement, and ends up conveying the very pulse of his feeling for a woman he had recently married in a clandestine ceremony. The illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Beaufort, who gave her an allowance of £200 a year, she is probably the woman tripping

through a glade in Gainsborough's most amorous pencil drawing. Her dress rises up, as if in response to the attentions of her companion pressing in from the side, and discloses a pair of alluring ankles. Gainsborough is by far the most sensual English artist of this period, and his irrepressible libido gives this show its remarkable vivacity.

Sometimes his apparent ease gives way to awkwardness, and we sense the struggles he must have experienced. To judge by the impetuous knife-strokes tearing through the canvas in an unfinished *Landscape with Peasants*, Gainsborough abandoned the painting in a rage.

As for the double portrait of Mr and Mrs Carter, it suffers from Gainsborough's inability to find the right proportions for the figures. The genial old man, in elaborate wig and resplendent black-and-gold waistcoat, was clearly larger in build than his stern, blanching wife. But she has shrunk to a disconcertingly small size, exposing all too well Gainsborough's habit of work-

ing out compositions with the aid of wooden dolls.

He was far happier when painting the Carters' daughter Frances, seated on a bench with her husband in nearby attendance. The result, *Mr and Mrs Andrews*, is the most winning of all 18th-century English portraits. This time, Gainsborough had no problem with the proportions of the two figures. The teenage wife appears a trifle flushed and peevish as she gazes out from lowered lids. But since she inherited this expression from her sulky-looking Huguenot mother, we need not infer that she was discontented in marriage. The radiance of her sky-blue satin dress, the most exquisite passage of painting to be found in Gainsborough's early work, gives the young woman an airborne quality.

Everything about Mr Andrews exudes squirearchical assurance. Unsmiling he may be, but the well-cultivated acreage taking up such a substantial part of the picture suggests how gratified Mr Andrews must feel when surveying the additional estate he had acquired through marriage.

In the end, though, Gainsborough's fervent response to the Suffolk countryside gives this outstanding canvas its ability to delight. Equally adept at defining the newly harvested corn-sheaves with close-up precision, and summarising the fugitive play of sunlight on a distant hillside, he asserts here more persuasively than before that landscape painting would play a major role in the rest of his career.

Young Gainsborough runs at the National Gallery (0171-839 3321) until March 31. Sponsored by British Land Company

Seeking moral asylum

In the early decades of this century a young woman who let her family down by becoming pregnant without the preliminary of wedlock could be locked away in a lunatic asylum. A sympathetic doctor — sympathetic, that is, to the family's desire to sweep anything untoward under the nearest carpet — would declare the errant female a "moral imbecile" and away she went. Some remained incarcerated for 50 years, and the fate of such women is the inspiration for this play by Charlotte Jones, a co-founder of the Sweet Desserts Theatre. The company takes its name from the intriguing Lucy Ellmann novel it adapted and staged a few years back. Jones was involved in that production, as co-writer and perform-

THEATRE

Airswimming
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er, and is one of the two players in this latest work. I held high hopes for the production but was disappointed.

The set designed by Kirby Twiddle is a brilliant white and contains an empty bath, a short flight of steps and a door painted with the view of a springtime wood. These three items are for cleaning, for polishing, and for never being able to open, because the room is in St Dymphna's Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

One day in 1924 Persephone (Rosie Cavillero) arrives. She believes she is there for a short convalescence and is reluctant to say much to Dora (Jones), who has already been cleaning and polishing for two years. Porphy, as she is later called, has had a baby; why Dora has been confined is never revealed but presumably relates to her wish to disguise herself as a man and follow her three brothers into the army.

So there they are, and there they stay, and changes of lighting shoot us between the 1920s and the 1970s with occasional pauses in between. We learn nothing of what goes on elsewhere, except that somehow Porphy gets to see the films of Doris Day, whose life, voice and happy philosophy come to obsess her. The obsession also brings about changes of diction, from polite and pure-welcomed to unkind and offish. No reason is given for this, nor why the performances, directed by Anna Mackinn, should incorporate no signs of ageing. Moreover, nobody in 1924 said "Feel free" or talked of nutters and taking your finger out. Gradually the situation floats away from reality.

What the play is intended to show never becomes clear. Its 80 minutes are a long preliminary to something that never happens.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THE Swiss painter Richard Paul Lohse (1902-1988) was the Matisse of abstractionists. The first thing that strikes one in Anselm Kiefer's retrospective is the extraordinary vibrancy of the colours which inhabit these meticulous rectangles and bands. In the catalogue there is a photograph of an unassuming canteen in Zurich, where the whole effect is lightened and warmed by one of Lohse's Complementary Colours murals, far indeed from the Calvinistic austerity of most geometrical abstrac-

tion. And yet, ironically, Lohse was one of the most intellectually disciplined of painters. All his work was based on a mathematical theory of colour, designed to eliminate subjectivity from his works. But the best thing to do is to forget the hows and whys, and just wallow. Anselm Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street, W1 (0171-629 7578). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, to March 1.

■ ANIMALS always were Elsie Henderson's artistic

obsession, and between the wars she was famous internationally for her skill in evoking, especially, the big cats. The finest of the drawings in the current show at Sally Hunter are, indeed, decidedly fierce, though as many of the pieces are connected with Henderson's London Zoo poster of 1917, the gentler creatures are also featured for the faint-hearted. The show is interesting, too, from a technical point of view, since a whole section is devoted to lithographic proofs for vari-

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

ous parts of the poster, indicating the care with which the final complex image was built up. Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Halkin Arcade, Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 0934). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, until Feb 21.

■ IF YOU are not familiar with the name of Brian Yale that is perfectly understandable, for he has reached the

age of 60 before achieving a solo West End show. This must have more to do with his modest and retiring nature than with the quality of his art. Also, perhaps, with the fact that he is better known as a sculptor than as a painter: his most prominent work in London is a 120-metre frieze of laser-cut metal at the Prince Regent station in Docklands. His paintings are mostly in a suitably cool, quasi-photo-

graphic style, haunting in their clarity and directness. But there are also crossover works which incorporate paintings into assemblages of objects, trawled from pebble beaches in a personal way. Wolsey Fine Arts, Gallery 27, 27 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 7595). Mon-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 11am-3pm, until Feb 22.

■ EFFECTS of superimposition figure prominently in Paul Stevenson's show *Sacred Stones*, at Michael

Parkin. Here, however, it is more important as an idea behind the paintings than as a part of the painting process itself. What interests Stevenson is the feeling of history built into a place or a building, an almost telepathic awareness that these stones have lived a life of their own, which somehow vibrates in the mind of the visitor. This latest group of paintings, shown to mark the artist's seventieth birthday, is inspired by a visit two years ago to Malta, and the megalithic

structures of the island. The influence of Ben Nicholson is evident, though the work is far from derivative. Stevenson trained as an architect, and it shows in the strong sense of underlying structure, giving substance to these delicate evocations of a world remote yet strangely familiar. Michael Parkin Gallery, 11 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 8144). Daily 10am-6pm, until Friday.

JOHN
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Nick Catliff asks how convicted paedophiles should be treated when released

Just after new year on the Raploch housing estate in Stirling, a lynch mob of angry mothers surrounded a hostel of released prisoners and forced police to remove Alan Christie, who is 50, for his own safety. In Birmingham, George Taylor, 58, abandoned his flat after his windows were smashed, while in Liverpool Lyndsey Rooney was putting up posters warning people that her father would soon be coming home from jail.

All the men are convicted paedophiles and not surprisingly their potential neighbours do not like the prospect of their moving in next door.

Until now, local authorities have quietly housed released sex offenders in hostels and on housing estates and relied on social services and probation officers to keep an eye on these potentially dangerous additions to the community. Legally speaking, they have served their sentences, "paid their debt to society". Most are subject to parole restrictions but like all other former prisoners the law says they should be allowed to rebuild their lives in peace. But, increasingly, people are unwilling to allow sex offenders to blend into society. They are public enemy number one. The nature of their crimes and the high rate at which they re-offend strikes understandable fear into the heart of any parent.

Last week, in a Commons debate on the Sex Offenders Bill, David Mellor, MP, QC, captured the mood of public fear perfectly. The Bill proposes a compulsory national register of convicted paedophiles to deny them the anonymity they need for access to children in places such as schools and clubs. Mr Mellor wants to go further: he argues that paedophiles are uniquely dangerous and that the new law should require police to use the register to inform local communities when a dangerous paedophile moves into their area. Now Labour has tabled an amendment calling for a system for "providing information to the public", and the Liberal Democrats have suggested a new clause giving notification powers to chief constables.

The idea comes from recent American legislation known as "Megan's Law" after Megan Kanka, a seven-year-old who was raped and killed in July 1994 by one of three convicted paedophiles who had set up home in her quiet suburban street among young families. The law has overwhelming popular and political support. Tonight's *Inside Story* on BBC1 looks at the American legislation where



Maureen Kanka, whose daughter, Megan, was murdered at seven: "If a paedophile is living on my street, I want to know"

Can sex offenders be left in peace?

the obvious logic and appeal of "community notification" has run foul of a variety of legal and practical objections.

The law itself combines commonsense pragmatism with kneejerk political opportunism. So great was the outrage at the appalling and apparently preventable crime against Megan Kanka that "Megan's Law" was passed in New Jersey just 89 days after she died. Megan's mother, Maureen, formed an alliance with politicians and public opinion and by June 1996, two years into the campaign, she was in the White House next to President Clinton as he spoke of "circling the wagons around our children", and signed a federal version of the law.

The thinking behind the law is summed up by Mrs Kanka. "If a paedophile is living on my street, I want to know," she says. "If I had known they were there, I could have warned my daughter, and she would be alive today."

Dr Kay Jackson, a leading therapist dealing with sex offenders in New York, sees

the law as having a disastrous effect on her work with paedophiles and says they will be "ostracised by their communities, isolated from friends and family and so pushed back onto their own, clearly inadequate, resources". This is echoed by many released paedophiles. One of them, "John", says: "I've done my time, I'm still doing the therapy but now they won't let me rebuild my life... I'm always looking over my shoulder waiting for the lynch mob."

It is likely also to force many sex offenders — as one put it — to "move away and make a life for myself where no one knows me". This means a life without access to therapy, and without the supervision that he needs to avoid reoffending.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Liberty in the UK argue that community notification rides roughshod over civil liberties, amounts to double punishment and opens the offender to the possibility of a vigilante attack. But they have a hard task arguing that sex offenders — whom no one can guarantee will not

reoffend — have rights, too, and that what they really need is not tougher punishment but anonymity and privacy.

In the US, courts are now backing away from calls for Megan's Law. Some actions brought by sex offenders have challenged the law as unconstitutional when applied to offenders who committed their crimes before the law was passed. Several states have suspended the law until the issue of retroactivity has been decided.

If the courts rule against Megan's Law, politicians from the President downwards have vowed to fight for its reinstatement. They argue that "the right to know" is more important than the rights of men who have committed the most appalling of crimes. That sentiment would be echoed by the mothers in Stirling, David Mellor and several British child-welfare organisations. They want to see community notification and, for them, the Sex Offenders Bill is a necessary first step because it will create a register of all convicted paedophiles.

A register is a sensible idea. But before rushing to allow community notification we should look at the situation in America. Perhaps the last word should go to those most directly affected by the law, the paedophiles.

"Dave" speaks for many of them when he says: "It's a feel-good law. It makes everyone feel safer, but the truth is, if I wanted to reoffend, I'd do it. If the people in the area around my home are notified about me all I have to do is drive across town to a street where nobody knows and — boom — I can do what I like."

● The author is the producer of the *Inside Story* film, *Megan's Law*, to be shown on BBC1 tonight at 10.

Cuts that could worsen youth crime

Youth court magistrates must welcome the Audit Commission's timely report, *Misspent Youth*. The irony of the title will not be lost on those of us who have become increasingly frustrated with the inefficient workings of the system in these courts. If, as the report suggests, youth crime costs £1 billion a year yet the courts deal with only 3 per cent of the seven million offences committed by juveniles, something is seriously wrong either with the system of funding of the courts or their organisation.

Maybe we should just go back to basics and start to deal with the causes of juvenile crime because we don't seem to be able to cope with the results.

Most magistrates have long wanted to know the results of particular sentences so as to learn from them, yet little or no attempt is made to monitor the later behaviour of youths sentenced by the courts. What must also cause anxiety is that the report refers to supervision orders consisting sometimes of merely an hour a week with a social worker — hardly enough to be effective.

The community penalties using intermediate treatment, which were used effectively in the 1980s, led to a decline in reported offences, along with a decline in the use of custody. And most youth court magistrates will welcome the commission's stated view that custody is not only very expensive but essentially counter-productive. Eighty per cent of those sentenced in this way re-offend within two years.

The commission recommends what many of us have been saying for years: that funds should go to schemes that tackle offending behaviour. The offenders' families should be involved if at all possible and victims compensated. The report estimates that if 20 per cent of young offenders prosecuted in court were warned and sent to special units dealing with offending behaviour, £40 million could be saved and spent on preventive measures. The commission recognises that these should start much earlier than at present.

Family breakdown and helpless or even non-existent parents are commonplace circumstances in the lives of the children we see before the youth courts today. There was a time when children were brought before us for failure to attend school. In inner London we no longer see such cases, presumably because the problem has mushroomed beyond the local authorities' ability to cope. The report says that the level of truancy and exclusions from school has quadrupled in the past five years to more than 12,000 a year.

As magistrates, we are constantly trying to deal with delinquent juveniles whose back-

grounds are frequently horrendous and whose parents — often only one — cannot cope. These are the people who need help earlier before their lives start falling apart and their children end up in court. The report refers to the many different schemes around the world set up to deal with offending behaviour without recourse to the courts. These range from the Family Group Conferences in New Zealand to the Halt programme in The Netherlands, from the Scottish Children's Hearings system to the Northamptonshire Diversion Unit. There has been a lot of success with these schemes, but surely the logic must be to start much earlier and help parents to parent?

Looking after young children is a more difficult job than any other yet is little appreciated in our materialistic society. Young parents, usually but not always mothers, are often isolated and poor and, not surprisingly, find themselves unable to cope. Charities set up to help these people and thus to help to prevent family breakdown are named in the commission's report, yet these are the charities which are losing core funding.

Home Start, which has almost 200 voluntary schemes operating in the UK alone, has 5,000 volunteers helping 28,000 families. But it has seen its core funding from the Department of Health reduced from £115,000 to £85,000 since 1994.

Expenditure has risen from £700,000 to £1 million over the same period and fundraising is a permanent headache. Newpin — New Parent Infant Network — operates centres where parents and children can get together and are helped to make positive changes in their lives.

This befriending scheme and therapeutic network for carers of young children is also threatened with the withdrawal of funding from an area health authority, and two new projects may never get off the ground. But these charities are singled out in the report as examples to be followed.

The commission recommends that volunteer programmes, "where experienced parents can offer practical help and support for an hour or two a week along the lines of the Home Start and Newpin programmes", should be piloted by health and social services in high-risk areas where there are no family centres. The commission refers to possible savings of £40 million.

A few million to charities such as these would be money well spent. Cutting their funding seems positively crazy at a time when their work is increasingly vital.

● The author is an inner London magistrate.



PAULA DAVIES

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Boost for LCJ's office

TWO NEW posts have been created under the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Rose, 59, has been made vice-president of the Court of Appeal criminal division, and Lord Justice Kennedy, 61, vice-president of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

The jobs are, to some extent, formal recognition of the work they already do. Lord Justice Rose, who also chairs the Criminal Justice Consultative Council, acts as adviser to the Lord Chief Justice on criminal matters, and Lord Justice (Paul) Kennedy handles the deployment of High Court judges on circuit. The appointments bolster the LCJ's office.

● LORD TAYLOR of Gossforth, who turned out (with Lord Lane, his predecessor) to lend moral support to Lord Bingham of Cornhill in an attack on Michael Howard's sentencing plans in the Lords last week, intends to vote in the committee stage next week.

Rush of bids
LAW FIRMS may have been critical of the Government's

legal aid reforms, but they have not been slow to take advantage of them. There has been an unexpected rush of bids in the legal aid block contracts to be awarded by the Legal Aid Board under the first pilot of the Government's reforms. Bids have come in from more than 840.

The board is now extending the pilot from 50 to 145 firms.

● A slick new brochure from Monckton Chambers, a lead-

ing commercial set, provides telling evidence of how the higher reaches of the Bar continue to be the preserve of a tightly knit elite. Out of 23 barristers in the set, only five did not go to Oxford or Cambridge.

Insurance rise
MARTIN MEARS and Robert Sayer, who are contenders once again for the Law Society leadership this summer,

Black breakthrough

LINCOLN Crawford, barrister and assistant recorder, has been appointed chairman of the Bar's race relations committee, the first black lawyer in the post. His eminent predecessors include three judges, Lord Steyn, Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Hooper.

The appointment of a black chairman will be a boost for ethnic-minority lawyers at the Bar.

Mr Crawford, 49 — recently elected to the Bar Council — said that much progress had been made. But discrimination and



Crawford: chairman

prejudice persisted; and obtaining pupillages and tenancies was still difficult for lawyers from ethnic minorities.

have been quick to jump on news that solicitors may face a one-off 30 per cent rise in their insurance premiums to cope with a £248 million shortfall in the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund.

The money is needed for claims over negligence and fraud in conveying work done in the early 1990s when the market collapsed. A 30 per cent rise means a rise for small firms of several thousand pounds.

Mr Mears and Mr Sayer were at odds with the fund during their time in office. In their latest newsletter, the pair in effect say "we told you so". They comment: "These revelations will surprise no one but the Old Guard at the Law Society."

'Red bag' first

JOHN DAVIS, a Buckinghamshire solicitor-advocate, has just been presented with a "red bag" in recognition of his advocacy skills by Rosamund Horwood-Smart, QC, who led him in a recent case.

This is the first time that a solicitor-advocate has received a red bag, which is presented to junior counsel who distinguish themselves in court.

Mr Davis won the admiration of Miss Horwood-Smart after winning the argument on a point of international law in a fraud trial.

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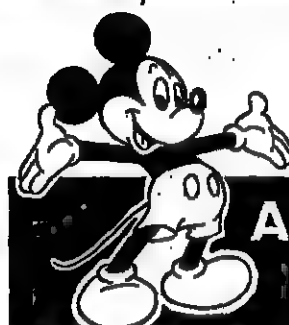
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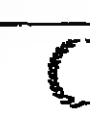
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Applications are invited for one appointment to membership of the Council on Tribunals. This appointment will be made by the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Advocate for a three year term. Renewal for a second three year term is a possibility.

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The Council, which is based in London, keeps under review the workings of tribunals and inquiries and reports on them to the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Advocate.

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- participate in any special projects
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Membership of the Council is not open to those employed in central or local government or who are members of a tribunal supervised by the Council. However, serving tribunal members may apply if they are willing to stand down for the duration of Council membership.

For an application form please write to the address below enclosing a large self-addressed envelope:

Council Applications (Legal Appl.) Tribunals Policy Branch, Room 313, Selborne House, 54 Victoria St, London SW1E 6QW

The last date for requesting an application form is 18th February 1997 and completed forms must be returned by 28th February 1997.

The Lord Chancellor's Department and Scottish Courts Administration are committed to equality of opportunity in appointments for all those who are eligible, on the basis of ability, qualifications, and fitness for work. Applications are invited from all qualified persons, irrespective of race, gender, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.

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Free help for the equality struggle

TOP employment lawyers including Cherie Booth, QC, are offering free legal help to barristers and solicitors facing discrimination.

The new Equal Opportunities Pro Bono Unit, to be launched at the Women Lawyers' Conference on April 12, will provide confidential advice to lawyers or their staff who face discrimination because of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability.

It comes after a Law Society survey showed widespread differences in the pay for men and women solicitors, a gap that widens higher up the career scale. Several law firms have faced sexual discrimination claims. They include the City law firm Sinclair Roche & Temperley, which was recently reported to have paid £30,000 to a former assistant solicitor in settlement of a sex discrimination claim, with no admission of liability.

Margaret McCabe, the barrister setting up the new unit, said the aim was to plug the gap between awareness of discrimination and doing something about it. The idea was to provide people with advice in the first instance. "We want an informal, mediation-based approach," she said. "Litigation is in no one's interests. But litigation is the final sanction."

The one-day Women Lawyers' conference in London, *Shattering the Myths*, is organised jointly by the Bar and Law Society and sponsored by *The Times*. Speakers include Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Roberta Ramo, past President of the American Bar Association, and leaders of the Law Society and the Bar. Winners of the new Women of Achievement in the Law Awards will be announced.

Details of early registration discount (before February 15) and awards nomination forms are available from Blair Communications, 0171-722 9731.



'Make the young pay'

Lord Mackay tells Frances Gibb of the need for a tougher approach to youth crime

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, last week urged magistrates to adopt a new tougher approach to young offenders including more on-the-spot fines and no more repeated delays in bringing cases to trial.

In a speech with echoes of the "get tough on crime" policy of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Lord Mackay called for an end to the "wholesale business" of repeated adjournments, particularly in "spree offending" in which young offenders commit fresh crimes while on bail for a previous offence. He also urged further action to ensure speedy and prompt payment of fines, to clear the jails of fine defaulters.

Both initiatives are aimed at underlining the link between the offence and its penalty — a link made tenuous by the present system. Courts, Lord Mackay said, should ask offenders there and then: "Are you going to pay today?" And where possible, they should be made to pay a large part of the fine before leaving court to "underline the punishment and the court's

determination to secure full payment."

He spoke of what some called almost "an adjournment culture" in the youth courts. In cases of repeat or "spree offending", courts tended to delay trial so as to deal

with all outstanding charges in one go. But that meant a large gap between the original offence and any penalty. He said: "There is real value in linking in the mind of the young person the consequences of criminal behaviour, and the punishment, with the offending behaviour itself."

If the link were broken, it "reinforces the notion of getting away with it". His remarks, to *Tyneside* magistrates and to *The Times*, came after a recent Audit Commission report, *Misspent Youth* (see Paula Davies,

page 41) that found a "disturbingly high number of adjournments in youth cases". There was an average of four appearances in the course of a youth court case (the range was two to seven appearances) which meant offenders could avoid punishment for several months. Repeated adjournments encouraged repeated offending and put victims at risk, he added. In some cases, it meant offenders waiting weeks or months for a trial. Courts should only grant adjournments where strictly

necessary. He emphasised that JPs were independent and would make their own decisions. But the Magistrates' Association and Justices' Clerks' Society had issued guidelines to that effect and he hoped that JPs would heed his concerns, as they had in the past, and use

their powers to ensure a "firm and rapid disposal of the case".

In a second initiative, Lord Mackay urged action to cut the numbers of fine defaulters jailed. Measures launched last summer to improve fine enforcement had led to a cut of up to one third in some places in the total of unpaid fines (the estimated national total is £200 million).

If enacted, Mr Howard's sentencing plans could mean a big rise in prison numbers. But Lord Mackay insisted he favoured the use of prison as a last resort — and for serious offenders — as a matter of principle, not expediency. "We should," he said, "ensure that prison places are not taken up by people who have not paid their fines. It is not sensible for prisons to be full of petty offenders who can be dealt with in other ways."

The drive to cut jailed defaulters was paying off. In 1995, 20,000 people were jailed for not paying a fine, "dramatically" down last year to 8,800. But if fines and other non-custodial penalties were not to be seen as "getting off lightly", there had to be prompt enforcement.

The cases should go ahead as fast as possible

Confusing the electorate

Piers Coleman on political cloning

Richard Huggett, aka Gerald Macdonald (aka the "Liberal Democrat" of 1994), has let it be known that he will stand for election again, this time in Winchester. It is not a coincidence that the name of the sitting MP is Gerald Malone and that Gerald Macdonald's name would appear above his (an inestimable advantage) on the ballot paper.

Strenuous objections were made by local Conservative and Labour parties to the inclusion of Gerald Macdonald on the register as an elector. Two weeks ago the Electoral Registration Officer in Winchester ruled that the name change was a "sham" and substituted the name Richard Huggett for Gerald Macdonald in the register. Mr Huggett has already appealed to the county court, whose decision is awaited.

Mr Huggett last stood for election to the European Parliament in June 1994 in Devon. He described himself as "Liberal Democrat". Ten thousand electors voted for him, the Liberal Democrat candidate lost by 700 votes and hundreds of electors signed statements claiming that they had been confused by his description and had voted for Mr Huggett by mistake. In the subsequent election petition, notwithstanding a huge outcry, the Election Court ruled that the returning officer had been under no obligation to consider the confusion which might arise and to reject Mr Huggett's nomination; indeed, they strongly hinted that even a "Liberal Democrat" description could not have been challenged.

Why is there no machinery to control the use of party descriptions? It was only in 1969 that party descriptions were allowed on a ballot paper at all, apparently after the threat of a proliferation of candidates with the name of Harold Wilson. However, it seems that Act will not have achieved much if the

effect, shown by the Election Court's judgment in the Liberal Democrat case, is that there can still be a proliferation of candidates with the same (or very similar) names and the same (or very similar) party descriptions. Notwithstanding huge billboard advertising campaigns, immensely expensive political broadcasts and much value attached to epithets such as "new" Labour, election law in England is still rooted in the tradition that "one votes for the man and not for the party". The Election Court in 1994 strongly suggested — not before time — that a change in the law may now be appropriate but the Government has not so far taken the hint.

But how can the returning officer in Winchester decide whether or not Gerald Macdonald should stand at the general election? There is undoubtedly authority for an officer to make a nomination paper, and the fact that Mr Macdonald may not be a registered elector could be a reason for his rejection.

Spool candidates are now cropping up all too frequently. Deliberately confusing names and descriptions are being used. Mr Huggett says he intends to stand for nomination in Winchester in the name of Gerald Macdonald. Will he describe himself as a Conservative or as a Conservative or use some other description? Will the returning officer accept his nomination?

Spool candidates and real candidates, with varied names and varied descriptions, may be planning similar electoral ambushes elsewhere. Yet the opportunity for change, so strongly hinted at by the Election Court in 1994, has not been taken.

The parties face not only known opponents but also unknown opponents who could exploit 19th-century laws used to fight a 20th-century election.

The author acted for the petitioner in the Liberal Democrat case in 1994.



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London
February
1997

For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultant: Deborah Kirkman at Chambers Banking & Finance, on +44 171 608 8844 (+44 181 449 8485 eves/weekends), or write to her at 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET. (Confidential fax +44 171 600 1793). All direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Chambers Banking & Finance.

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Applicants who are solicitors are required to take part IV of the examination consisting of papers on 'Notarial Practice' and 'Bills of Exchange'.

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The Registrar, The Court of Faculties, 1 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3JT, DX 2501 VICTORIA.

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Further particulars can be obtained only by writing to (or telephoning 01223 332456) the Senior Tutor, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge CB2 3TA. All completed applications should be sent by 1 March 1997.

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RACING: CHELTENHAM WILL EJECT RACEGOERS ATTEMPTING TO ENTER WINNER'S ENCLOSURE

Festival celebrations crowded out

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of an Irish victory in the Cheltenham Gold Cup — and a repeat of last year's chaotic post-race crowd scenes — has prompted an unprecedented security clampdown for next month's Festival.

Extra security staff will be backed by police in an attempt to prevent the surge by hundreds of jubilant Irishmen who burst past helplessly officials into the winner's enclosure last March and swamped Imperial Call. A warning that spectators face being ejected from the racecourse if they attempt to go into the parade ring or winner's enclosure after a race will be published in the racecard and broadcast regularly over the public address system.

A reminder of the frenzy which can follow a popular Irish victory was evident at Leopardstown on Sunday after Danoli's success in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup. Danoli, Dorans Pride and Imperial Call head the betting for the Cheltenham Gold Cup — and officials at Prestbury Park are on alert.

Edward Gillespie, managing director of Cheltenham, said yesterday: "Our job is to ensure that the pleasure of everyone at the racecourse and those watching at home is not impaired by the foolishness of the relatively few people who lose their senses."

"We have spent a great deal of time since last year's Festival examining this problem, not only because of our concern but because the matter was drawn to our attention by Gloucestershire County Council on behalf of the Depart-



Imperial Call and O'Dwyer are engulfed by their jubilant supporters after winning the Gold Cup at the Cheltenham Festival last year

ment of Heritage, who are empowered by the Safety of Sports Ground Act. They were worried by reports of what happened last year and want to be satisfied we are competent to stage such an event."

Footage of last year's Gold Cup scenes, taken by Channel 4 cameras from its airship, has helped Cheltenham identify where and when the people were getting in to the parade ring and unsanitary enclosure. "If someone falls it is

unlikely people will take any notice and trample them. Our concern is for the safety of people and horses."

New measures, tested this season, will ensure the Gold Cup winner is the last of the first four horses to enter the winner's enclosure. Last year two placed horses came after Imperial Call, which enabled a crowd of people to rush into the winner's area.

Double gates have been erected at the entrance to the parade ring where horses go in and out. Twenty security staff, against eight last year, will be backed by police at the entrance.

"The danger is that if we fail the matter will be taken out of our hands by the authorities and severe measures may be introduced not only at Cheltenham, but at other courses," Gillespie's actions are supported by Danoli's trainer, Tom Foley, who witnessed at first hand the post-race may-

hem at Cheltenham after his horse's victory in the Sun Alliance Hurdle in 1994.

Reflecting on the scenes at Leopardstown, he said: "I would love to have a section called off where the horse has room to breathe. I hate to see the horse mauled so much, people get carried away. Danoli doesn't like to be confined in a small space and one day someone will get hurt. Any horse can lash out."

Heavily, a bit tired today but I'll forgive him for that. He may not run again before Cheltenham. Winning the Hennessy means a lot but Cheltenham is once in a lifetime. Sunday's race was like a World Cup qualifier, the Gold Cup is the final.

"I know in my heart we may have only one chance to win the Gold Cup. That is why it means so much."

Ladbrokes buys, page 29

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright
suggests the best value in
the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Cont	Win	Place	Each
Edelweiss Du Moulin	7-2	3-1	3-1	7-2
Make A Stand	5-1	5-1	9-2	5-1
Direct Route	5-1	6-1	11-2	6-1
Nettingout	5-1	7-1	6-1	5-1
Dario Star	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Paddy's Return	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Romancer	16-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Miller Morgan	10-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
Storm Damage	12-1	14-1	14-1	16-1
Zabed	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Clifford Best	25-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
Cherry's Lad	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1

FOUR impressive recent winners dominate the betting for the Tote Gold Trophy — formerly known as the Schweppes — run at Newbury on Saturday. In a high quality field, the only unexpected defector at yesterday's declaration stage was the Mary Reddy-trained Purry A Day, who has a temperamental. Edelweiss Du Moulin, available at 33-1 before his Wetherby success on Saturday, is now a best-priced 7-2. Impressive though he was, there has to be a question mark over the form of that slowly run race, and he faces a much stiffer task on Saturday. Paul Carberry, who is retained by Edelweiss Du Moulin's owner, Robert Ogden, also won on Direct Route on his latest run at Kells last month. He, too, won with consummate class, and escapes a penalty. The booking of Norman Williamson is a bonus, and he merits the utmost respect. Make A Stand has been allowed to make all this running on his last two starts, but is unlikely to have things his own way this time. He confirmed front-runners Nettingout and Dario Star in the field. They are likely to set the pace. Dario Star appeals as the ideal type for the race, although there is a doubt that he will not run if the forecast rain falls to midsize. He was not able to collar Mistingout at Haydock last time, when beaten four lengths, but has a bit put in the weights and has every chance of reversing the form. His trainer, Malcolm Jefferson, has his stable in tremendous form and, at 14-1, DARIO STAR is worth noting.

THUNDER	3.00
1.30 Exalted	3.00 Musthewewew
2.00 Garmen	3.30 BARFORD SOVEREIGN (nap)
2.30 Marching Marquis	4.00 The Malakurms
	4.30 Edintra

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.30 BARFORD SOVEREIGN (nap).
Carl Evans: 4.00 Out For Fun.

GUIDE TO THE	3.00
101 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
102 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
103 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
104 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
105 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
106 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
107 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
108 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
109 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00
110 113145 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M) (B) (H) 12-4	3.00

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

1.30	MYTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O; 22.67; 2m) (11 runners)
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30
1.30	1.30

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.00	FRANCHISE NOVICES CHASE (3.77; 2m 4 1/2f) (16 runners)
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00
2.00	2.00

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.30	EUROPEAN BREEDERS' FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier; 3.37; 2m 4 1/2f) (8 runners)
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30
2.30	2.30

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

3.00	GEORGE CONEY CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (23.74; 3m 5f) (7 runners)
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00
3.00	3.00

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

3.30	EMERITON HANDICAP HURDLE (23.45; 2m 4 1/2f) (8 runners)
3.30	3.30
3.30	3.30
3.30	3.30
3.30	3.30
3.30	3.30
3.30	3.30
3.30	3.30
3.30	3.30
3.30	3.30

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

4.00	AIR WEIDING TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (23.45; 2m 4 1/2f) (4 runners)
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00
4.00	4.00

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

4.30	FEBRUARY MAJORS ONLY MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (11.02; 2m) (22 runners)
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30
4.30	4.30

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

5.00	EUROPEAN BREEDERS' FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier; 3.37; 2m 4 1/2f) (8 runners)
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00
5.00	5.00

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

5.30	EUROPEAN BREEDERS' FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier; 3.37; 2m 4 1/2f) (8 runners)
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30
5.30	5.30

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

6.00	EUROPEAN BREEDERS' FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier; 3.37; 2m 4 1/2f) (8 runners)
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00
6.00	6.00

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS	NEWCASTLE
1.30	1.30
2.00	2.00
2.30	2.30
3.00	3.00
3.30	3.30
4.00	4.00
4.30	4.30
5.00	5.00
5.30	5.30
6.00	6.00
6.30	6.30

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

1.40	WETHERAL NOVICES HURDLE (22.78; 2m 4 1/2f) (11 runners)
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40
1.40	1.40

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.10	NET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (20.11; 2m 4 1/2f) (10 runners)
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10
2.10	2.10

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.40	HOCHST ROUSSEL PANACUR EBF MAJORS HURDLE (Qualifier; 22.62; 2m 4 1/2f) (13 runners)
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40
2.40	2.40

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

3.10	JOHN BROCK MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (23.74; 2m) (5 runners)
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10
3.10	3.10

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

3.40	NETHERSFIELD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE (22.24; 2m 4 1/2f) (9 runners)
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40
3.40	3.40

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

LINGFIELD PARK	THUNDER
1.20	1.20
2.00	2.00
2.30	2.30
3.00	3.00
3.30	3.30
4.00	4.00
4.30	4.30
5.00	5.00
5.30	5.30
6.00	6.00
6.30	6.30

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

1.20	PEACH AMATEUR RIDERS HURDLE (22.42; 1m) (8 runners)
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20
1.20	1.20

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

1.50	PEACH AMATEUR RIDERS HURDLE (22.42; 1m) (8 runners)
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50
1.50	1.50

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.20	DAMSON SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O; 22.07; 6f) (5 runners)
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20
2.20	2.20

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.50	PLUM CLAMING STAKES (22.78; 1m 2f) (5 runners)
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50
2.50	2.50

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

3.50	NECTARINE MAIDEN STAKES (23.32; 7f) (9 runners)
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50
3.50	3.50

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

4.20	CHERRY HANDICAP (22.80; 1m 4f) (13 runners)
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20
4.20	4.20

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

RACELINE
0930 1

GOLF
 POSSIBLE REACH
 1000 SPRAY
 1000
 HYPERSTONE

RUGBY UNION

Greenwood complicates conundrum for Rowell

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JACK ROWELL, the England coach, has a problem. It is of the type that men in his position claim to enjoy and, since this one is of his own making, he can scarcely complain — but it will not go away. What does Rowell do about his midfield?

Is there a problem, one might ask, given that England began their five nations' championship defence on Saturday with 41 points against the hapless Scots? Since Phil de Glanville and Will Carling were among the try-scorers, their partnership at centre may appear to be functioning well enough.

It is, though, a holding partnership only. An enduring centre alliance needs something more, something like the complementary talents that Carling and Jeremy Guscott brought to the game in a world record 44 appearances together. You may admire de Glanville and Carling as players, but they do not offer the variety that Guscott did — and may yet still do — or that Will Greenwood, another contender, might introduce.

It was bad enough for Rowell that, when he decided that de Glanville should be his captain, he had to make a decision over Carling and Guscott for the one other berth; but Greenwood has been growing in stature for Leicester of late and indicated, against an admittedly modest Scotland A last Friday, with his leadership as well as his skills, that he could cope with even greater responsibilities.

He has presence, he has as much pace as the others and he has softer hands than either Carling or de Glanville. Whether he can reproduce those skills at the highest level, only time will tell, but suffice it to say that he was the only member of the Leicester back division who could live with Brive in the Heineken Cup final last month.

Meanwhile, there is still

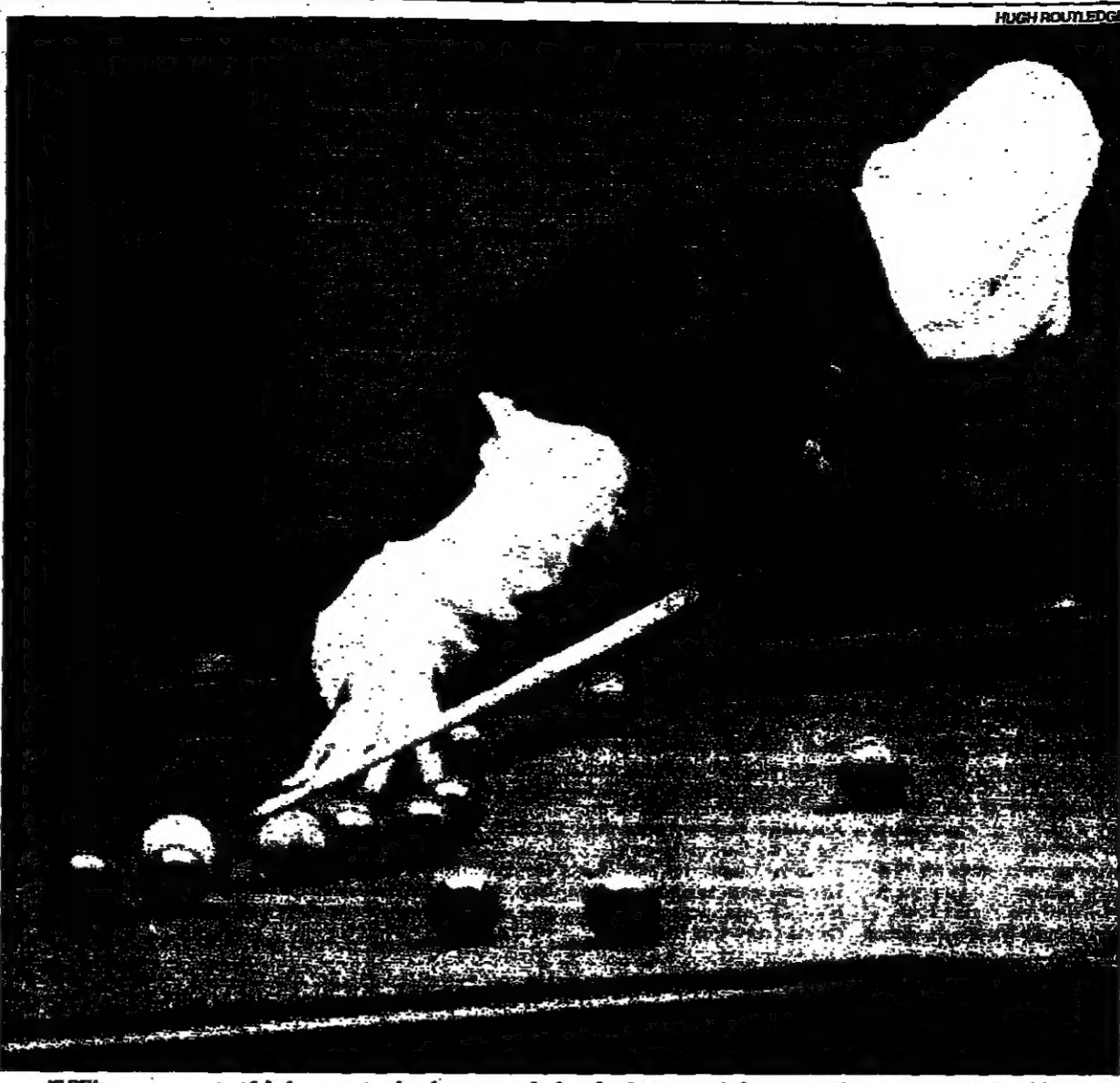
Guscott to consider. He is playing as well for Bath — alongside de Glanville — as at any time in the past four years: well enough to interest the British Isles selectors, who could include him and Greenwood in the preliminary 60-strong squad, to be announced next week, for the tour to South Africa this summer.

In one sense, the problem is Carling. Having laid aside the duties of captaincy, that might have been the time for a golden handshake from the management, but he has carried on making a substantial case for retention. All credit to him for that.

His break in the second half against Scotland and grub kick to the corner when he saw that Tony Underwood had been squeezed out by the defence was as fine a piece of work as anything in the match. In any case, why should Carling make life easy for the selectors? His is a substantial presence, made even more vital by the number of changes that have been made in the side elsewhere.

There is not so much cement in the England brickwork that the management can afford to lose either of two good decision-makers — Carling and de Glanville — at this stage. If the side matures this season in a winning context, if Tim Stimpson can offer the variety from full back that he has not done yet, then England will be more than happy with their two "steady Eddie"s and may leave tinkering with the components for the time being.

Ireland, who play England in Dublin on February 15, may have confirmed the long-term appointment of Brian Ashton as coach by then. The Irish Rugby Football Union has discussed with Pat Whelan, the team manager, the situation, and there is strong support among players and technical staff for the former Bath coach to be appointed up to the 1999 World Cup.



Williams was not at his best yesterday but nevertheless had too much firepower for Hunter at Wembley

Hunter falls prey to Williams

By PHIL YATES

MARK WILLIAMS, who was disappointed to have relinquished his Regal Welsh Open snooker title last week, gained a measure of consolation by beating Paul Hunter 5-1 in the first round of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

The match, a potential showcase for two of the game's most promising exponents, did not live up to expectations. Williams failed to produce anything that approximated to top form but, even so, was considerably more potent than Hunter.

In a season where few players other than the top 16, who are automatically included in the Masters field, have shone, Hunter was awarded the sponsor's discretionary wild-card invitation.

largely on the basis of his appearance in the quarter-finals of the United Kingdom championship.

At Preston, Hunter led Stephen Hendry 5-3 but, faced with the prospect of claiming such a notable scalp on such an important occasion, he froze and lost all six frames necessary during the concluding session. It was a similar scenario against Williams.

Hunter, 18, had innumerable opportunities against Williams, particularly in a second frame won by Williams with a clearance of the last two reds to blue, that was rounded off by an outrageous fluke.

A break of 79 in the third frame suggested briefly that Hunter's mistakes had merely been the product of the early butterflies that afflict so many of those making their debut at Wembley, but it was to prove a solitary highlight.

Williams, unexpectedly beaten 6-5 by Mark King in the semi-finals of the Welsh Open, won a scrappy fourth frame to lead 3-1 before effectively sealing Hunter's fate by snatching the fifth from his grasp on the black with a clearance of 46.

Williams, who now meets John Higgins, freely admitted that an improvement in the quality of his play will be needed if he is to advance further.

"It really was a struggle so, in a way, I was pleased to win so convincingly," Williams said. "Paul can play much better than that. He was a long way from his best out there."

Nigel Bond will provide the quarter-final opposition for John Parrott after a 6-1 victory over James Wattana, of Thailand, which was delayed by a globule of oil falling from the

lighting rig on to the playing surface.

The table-fitters solved that problem with a dab of white spirit, but Wattana, who lost nine consecutive frames when beaten 13-4 by the same opponent in the second round of the world championship last year, never appeared likely to solve the puzzle as to why he was rendered ineffective by Bond's presence.

"I felt relaxed and I am practising well, but whenever I play Nigel, something always seems to be missing," Wattana said.

Bond compiled breaks of 68, 80, 63 and 59 and, in turning a 2-1 lead into 5-1, scored 294 points without reply.

For Bond, the result ended four frustrating years of participation at the Masters in which he has failed to record a single previous victory.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tuigamala prepares to take on St Helens

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN Warriors are confident that work permit problems, which prevented Va'ega Tuigamala from playing in a friendly match at Preston on Sunday, can be resolved in time for the Western Samoa centre to resume his rugby league career on Saturday in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round tie at St Helens.

What was described as a technical hiccup forced Tuigamala to miss Wigan's 52-4 defeat of Lancashire Lynx. The club has been assured by the Department of Employment that it is merely a case of having his re-application rubber-stamped, but the hitch denied Tuigamala the opportunity of valuable league match practice after a four-month stint in rugby union at Wigan.

The long-term signing by Wags of Rob Henderson, the London Irish centre, means that interest in a possible permanent return to rugby union for Tuigamala is now concentrated on Newcastle, the Courage Clubs Championship second division side. To buy Tuigamala out of the two years that remain on his contract at Central Park, and his Super League loyalty deal, would cost Newcastle in the region of £750,000. Despite talks with Wigan, no deal has yet been struck.

While he has emphasised his loyalty to Wigan, Tuigamala has also said that his future is out of his hands. There has been speculation that Wigan would release the player in order to fund a new move to keep Jason Robinson. The Great Britain wing is due to join the Australian Rugby League (ARL) in June, in a £1.25 million four-year move.

The ARL insists that Robinson's deal is binding, although Wigan appear to have been successful in buying Martin Hall, the Wales hooker, out of his ARL contract. Nevertheless, the feeling persists that, should St Helens knock Wigan out of the Challenge Cup at the weekend, Tuigamala, who played for New Zealand's All Blacks in his first spell in the union code, might go to Newcastle sooner rather than later.

ICE HOCKEY

Devils find safe haven at centre of Storm

NORMAN DE MESQUITA

CARDIFF Devils took their weekend haul to four points with a 5-2 win over Manchester Storm, their third success in as many Super-league visits to the Nynex Arena. Ken Hodge scored after only 47 seconds and Ian Cooper doubled the lead in the ninth minute.

Craig Woodcroft, who scored the home side back into the game in the fourteenth minute, but it took the Devils only 24 seconds to restore their two-goal margin. Kip Noble combining well with Steve Morla and Cooper.

Ivan Marulic made it 4-1 to the Devils late in the first period, which ended with Cardiff lacking the services of Steve Thornton, who was taken to hospital suffering from concussion. A knee injury to Morla allowed George Swan, one of Cardiff's fringe players, to get on the ice and his second goal of the season took the Devils out of reach.

Martin Smith, of Manchester, then talked himself into being ejected, which hindered the Storm's attempts to launch a recovery. Woodcroft notched his second goal, but the Devils were content to hold on to what they had in a scoreless final period. Stevie Lyle excelled again in the Cardiff goal as the Storm outshot the Devils 44-43.

Blackpool Bears lack the depth of some of their more affluent rivals, and the loss of Chris Brant, who suffered a knee injury in their defeat in Manchester on Saturday, may prove crucial to them. In addition, Dale Junkin was injured in the second period of the 7-3 home defeat by Ayr Scottish Eagles and did not reappear for the third. There were no goals in the first period, but Ayr led 4-2 at the end of the second and coasted home from there.

The other game on Sunday saw Nottingham Panthers complete their second win of the weekend, a 3-1 away success over Newcastle Cobras, in which Trevor Robinson, probably the best goaltender in the Superleague, gave an outstanding performance in the third period to preserve his side's advantage.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

HONOLULU: National League (NFL) Pro Bowl: AFC 26, NFC 23 (OT).

ATHLETICS

ASHELEY HALL: National preliminary schools cross-country relay. One-111: Asherley Hall 28min 48sec, 2. Boston Hall 29:32, 3. Farnham 29:47, 4. Uddingston 30:02, 5. C&G 30:12, 6. Asherley Hall and Dulwich College 30:29.

BADMINTON

NORWICH: English national championship. Women's doubles: First: N. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 2. N. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 3. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 4. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 5. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 6. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 7. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 8. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 9. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 10. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 11. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 12. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 13. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 14. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 15. J. Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J. Beck (Buckinghamshire); 16. J. 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Always something there to remind you

The breathless story-so-far segment is a necessary ingredient of continuing thrillers. I know. "Last week on *Murder One*..." was enough, last year, to lift the stomach by an inch or two, and bring a faster pulse rate to the throat. But they are springing up everywhere now, in imitation of American networks, and it's starting to irritate. "Last week in *Common as Muck*..." says a disembodied voice, and we sit through a mildly reductive recap of past events, wondering why we bothered spending an hour on them last week when they could be summed up so briefly. "She's dead, Nev!" "I love her!" "She's dead!" "I'll show the whole lot of 'em!" It's like watching the ten-minute *Hamlet* devised by Tom Stoppard. Presumably the idea is to inform new viewers and remind old ones, and there will come a gruesome day (mark my words) when short

recaps will appear after each advertisement break, and those of us with robust attention-spans will be obliged to hang ourselves. For the meantime, however, we must accept that a well-structured forensic pathology drama, such as *McCallum* (ITV), must spell things out every ten minutes or so. "He's a doctor, and he's killing people!" "It's the Black Death all over again!" Joanna's going to die, isn't she? — just to provide fodder for the recap.

It was *McCallum*'s fourth episode last night, and it was still terrific. *McCallum* himself (John Hannah) has certain *Cracker* qualities — apart from being Scottish, he is also always right. While the dull-witted police inspector (who's always sweating) holds his big paw, *McCallum* efficiently snaps the pieces together and asks, with eyes narrowed, "But what next?" The blessing is,

that unlike *Fitz* in *Cracker*, *McCallum* uses medical science instead of mind-reading; and also unlike *Fitz*, he isn't clever principally for effect.

Like most viewers, I suspect, I was relieved that *Dr Pett* (a dastardly womaniser) turned out not to be the Black Plague spreader in last night's story. Suspicion had been piled on him so heavily by cut-aways ("But what doctor would do such a thing? Cut to *Dr Pett*, in white coat, reading a chart, it was a miracle he could still move his legs. In the end, however, *Pett* proved medical ace and hero of the hour, and I was glad.

Meanwhile, on Channel 4, *Cutting Edge* brought us *Identical Twins*. Rebecca Frayn's well-researched set of interviewed pairs, filmed in a formerly innovative style of intermittently panning stock-still on sofas, as if for a slow exposure.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Identical Twins hardly needed tricks, however. Visually, Tweedledums and Tweedledees are a gift of a subject. As the twin Ken Dodd lookalikes said, in unison: "You can't take your eyes off identical twins. They're spooky."

I must say I quibbled with the fairground music, with its unceasing hints of freak show. Otherwise, however, *Identical Twins*

explored questions of identity and separateness, and found its best story in David, a young professional photographer whose twin, John, had died of a brain tumour. David had always measured himself against John, competing with him fiercely, and on being left alone was now completely lost. When John first died, David couldn't look at himself in a mirror. His wife can't help his only friend is another bereaved twin. Now David takes pictures of flowers, but always in twos. "I feel like the weaker half," he said, pitifully. "I really should have been the one, and not John."

The photography of *Identical Twins* was sumptuous and dreamy. If someone drove a car in sunlight, we saw trees and clouds reflected in the windscreen. It all added to the impression that these twins lived in a private, self-reflecting world. The best shot of all showed two young black

women painting each other's lips and giggling — a picture of utter trust and dependence: a picture complete in itself.

Jeremy Paxman was on top form in *University Challenge* (BBC2). The variety of inflections in this splendid specimen can range from the simple word "No" to a lesson in drama students everywhere. Does he practice in the bath, I wonder. He can do petting, astonished, and dismissive, the way other people do "mi-mi-mi" up the sharp and flats. This is a man who, by great good fortune, was never taught in infancy to disguise his disappointment.

One feels one should watch *University Challenge* once a year, if only to shout in pleasurable exasperation "It's Henri Cartier-Bresson, for heaven's sake! Education in this country is a joke!" and then feel instantly humbled when the students know lots of things

you don't. The students are quite clever, really. It's just a shame they always brighten up when asked to name football stadiums or identify passages from American movies. As my colleague Matthew Bond once pointed out, in the old days half the pleasure of *University Challenge* was watching the contestants look stumped and twiddle when low culture came up. They blinked like owls in their big specs, swots defeated by pop.

Nowadays the star is Paxman, anyway — or more precisely, Paxman's breaking point. He bullies a student into naming a famous Second World War Pacific battle, and when the faltering answer "Dogger Bank" comes back, you think "This is it!" and close your eyes. Yes, it's a grand show. And spare a thought for the person crouching beside Jeremy's desk, taking the cards as he finishes with them. The worst job in television, I'd call it.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (30/75)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (T) (34/33)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (T) (30/30/7)
9.20am All Over the Shop (T) (72/34)
9.45am Killy (30/18/10)
10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (30/22)
11.00am News (T) and weather (30/70/13)
11.05am The Really Useful Show (T) (20/20/7)
11.45am Smiff's People (31/12/27)
12.00am News (T) and weather (30/78/33)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (32/29/27)
12.30am Going for a Song (73/34/27)
12.55am The Weather Show (34/30/38)
1.00pm News (T) and weather (37/52/0)
1.30pm Regional News (35/57/47)
1.40pm Neighbours (T) (20/14/16)
2.00pm Snowy River: The McGregor Saga (34/21/42)
2.50pm Snooker: The Masters (45/67/17)
3.30pm Playdays (15/54/52), 3.50pm Casper Classics (20/70/13), 3.55pm Hubub (77/58/17), 4.10pm Prince of Atlantis (30/59/28), 4.50pm The Mask (30/59/28), 5.00pm Newsround (T) (74/77/58), 5.10pm Grange Hill (77/58/12)

BBC2

6.00am Open University (30/57/36), 6.25am Open University (30/57/36), 6.50am The Encyclopedia (30/57/36), 7.15pm News (30/57/36), 7.30pm Secret Squirrel and Co (10/30/46), 7.55pm Blue Peter (T) (75/18/11), 8.20pm Johnson and Friends (30/57/36), 8.35pm The Record (30/22/22), 9.00pm Standard Grade English (30/57/36), 9.20pm The Business Studies Collection (12/19/28), 9.45pm Watch (30/57/36), 10.00pm Playdays (15/54/52), 10.30pm Come Outside (30/57/36), 10.50pm Teaching Today (13/27/28), 11.15pm La Caba (77/34/27), 11.30pm Teaching Today (30/57/36), 1.30pm Showcases (30/57/36), 1.40pm Hotch Potch House (11/18/18), 2.00pm Johnson and Friends (30/57/36), 2.10pm Snooker: The Masters (45/67/17), 2.50pm A Week to Remember (10/30/46), 3.00pm News and weather (T) (12/20/51), 3.05pm Westerns (10/30/46), 3.10pm Nicky's (T) (30/57/36), 3.15pm The Mask (30/57/36), 3.50pm Snooker: The Masters (45/67/17), 4.00pm The Mask (30/57/36), 4.10pm Prince of Atlantis (30/59/28), 4.50pm The Mask (30/59/28), 5.00pm Newsround (T) (74/77/58), 5.10pm Grange Hill (77/58/12)

Channel 4

6.00am Open University (30/57/36), 6.25am Open University (30/57/36), 6.50am The Encyclopedia (30/57/36), 7.15pm News (30/57/36), 7.30pm Secret Squirrel and Co (10/30/46), 7.55pm Blue Peter (T) (75/18/11), 8.20pm Johnson and Friends (30/57/36), 8.35pm The Record (30/22/22), 9.00pm Standard Grade English (30/57/36), 9.20pm The Business Studies Collection (12/19/28), 9.45pm Watch (30/57/36), 10.00pm Playdays (15/54/52), 10.30pm Come Outside (30/57/36), 10.50pm Teaching Today (13/27/28), 11.15pm La Caba (77/34/27), 11.30pm Teaching Today (30/57/36), 1.30pm Showcases (30/57/36), 1.40pm Hotch Potch House (11/18/18), 2.00pm Johnson and Friends (30/57/36), 2.10pm Snooker: The Masters (45/67/17), 2.50pm A Week to Remember (10/30/46), 3.00pm News and weather (T) (12/20/51), 3.05pm Westerns (10/30/46), 3.10pm Nicky's (T) (30/57/36), 3.15pm The Mask (30/57/36), 3.50pm Snooker: The Masters (45/67/17), 4.00pm The Mask (30/57/36), 4.10pm Prince of Atlantis (30/59/28), 4.50pm The Mask (30/59/28), 5.00pm Newsround (T) (74/77/58), 5.10pm Grange Hill (77/58/12)

Channel 5

6.00am Open University (30/57/36), 6.25am Open University (30/57/36), 6.50am The Encyclopedia (30/57/36), 7.15pm News (30/57/36), 7.30pm Secret Squirrel and Co (10/30/46), 7.55pm Blue Peter (T) (75/18/11), 8.20pm Johnson and Friends (30/57/36), 8.35pm The Record (30/22/22), 9.00pm Standard Grade English (30/57/36), 9.20pm The Business Studies Collection (12/19/28), 9.45pm Watch (30/57/36), 10.00pm Playdays (15/54/52), 10.30pm Come Outside (30/57/36), 10.50pm Teaching Today (13/27/28), 11.15pm La Caba (77/34/27), 11.30pm Teaching Today (30/57/36), 1.30pm Showcases (30/57/36), 1.40pm Hotch Potch House (11/18/18), 2.00pm Johnson and Friends (30/57/36), 2.10pm Snooker: The Masters (45/67/17), 2.50pm A Week to Remember (10/30/46), 3.00pm News and weather (T) (12/20/51), 3.05pm Westerns (10/30/46), 3.10pm Nicky's (T) (30/57/36), 3.15pm The Mask (30/57/36), 3.50pm Snooker: The Masters (45/67/17), 4.00pm The Mask (30/57/36), 4.10pm Prince of Atlantis (30/59/28), 4.50pm The Mask (30/59/28), 5.00pm Newsround (T) (74/77/58), 5.10pm Grange Hill (77/58/12)

Channel 6

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Channel 7

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RACING 47

Cheltenham takes steps to avoid Festival frenzy

SPORT

CRICKET 50

West Indies sound victory note on imperfect pitch



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4 1997

New hope for 2006 tournament

Support for bid keeps England world in motion

BY JOHN GOODBODY

ENGLAND'S hopes of staging the 2006 World Cup rose yesterday when Fifa, the game's world governing body, confirmed that more than one country from a single continental football association could apply to stage the tournament.

A spokesman for Fifa added that the association would not give any additional weight to the bid by Germany because it has been backed by Uefa, the European body — an endorsement that has outraged England and surprised other countries.

Keith Cooper, a Fifa spokesman, said: "It is quite clear in our regulations that each and every of the national associations is entitled to bid. We have never had a continental confederation doing this on their behalf and there is nothing foreseen in the statutes for this to happen this time. The decision is taken solely on the technical content of the bids submitted and how they correspond to the terms and requirements."

Germany has urged Uefa to choose one European candidate to avoid a damaging and expensive conflict similar to the one between South Korea and Japan for the right to host the 2002 World Cup, which resulted in them becoming joint hosts.

But Wolfgang Niersbach, the press officer of the German Football Association, hinted that his organisation had not realised that Uefa had apparently already decided to back Germany. Speaking on Radio 5 Live, Niersbach said: "We expect Uefa to make a decision but think there should only be one bid from each continent. We made our announcement in June 1993 and it was only after Euro 96 that we heard about the plan from the English Football

Association to host the World Cup. England organised an excellent tournament in 1996 and we respect their bid. But we expect the English FA should respect our bid as well."

Germany was the first country to announce its candidature for the tournament, but Fifa will not vote on who should host the 2006 World Cup until 2000. England delayed declaring its candidature until after the European championship last year, which made a record profit of

TIMETABLE

Countdown to the 2006 World Cup final:
■ End of 1996: Fifa to send letters to all national associations, except those in Asia (where the 2002 finals are to be held), inviting bids.
■ February 1999: Deadline for bids to be received by Fifa.
■ September 1999: Deadline for guarantees from bidders that they can meet conditions for staging the final.
■ June 2000: Fifa makes decision on host nation.

more than £60 million for Uefa.

It is by no means certain that any European country will host the event, particularly since candidates have at least two years to apply. With France due to hold the 1998 World Cup, the 2006 tournament might go to South America, which has not staged the competition since 1986 (Mexico), or Africa, which has never hosted the event.

David Davies, the Football Association's director of public affairs, said yesterday that he believed there had been an attempt to block England's bid. When asked why, he replied: "Because one or two people around the world — rather more than that, particularly in Europe — have discovered the strength of the bid in

the last few weeks." Davies added: "We ask for fairness, we ask for democracy."

"We don't believe democracy is an optional extra. That really is the message of what we are saying." He said that there was no record of Uefa having held a vote to support Germany's bid. This was supported by the football associations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

David Bowen, the secretary of the Irish FA, said: "We have got the minutes of a number of meetings held by Uefa and we have never seen anything to indicate that the decision has been taken for Europe to back Germany."

It appears that the FA only realised that Uefa had apparently taken an unofficial decision when a fax was received at Lancaster Gate on Friday evening, after leading Uefa executives had been invited by John Major, the Prime Minister, to attend a lunch on February 12, the day England are due to play their World Cup qualifying match against Italy at Wembley. "When was this decision taken and where and by whom?" Davies asked.

"In a decision of this magnitude, we find it extraordinary that it was not publicly recorded." Davies pointed out that Uefa officials, including Lennart Johansson, the president, were present on July 1 at the Royal Garden Hotel, London, when the FA announced it would be bidding for the 2006 World Cup. It was also mentioned in speeches at the Hilton Hotel, on September 19, in a dinner for Sir Bert Millichip, the retiring FA chairman, and on November 12 at another dinner in Geneva, which Uefa held to congratulate England on the success of Euro 96.

On both occasions, Gerhard Aigner, the general secretary, was present. Davies said: "No one pointed out that Uefa was backing Germany. It is perfectly possible that another country, such as Spain, may want to bid for 2006. Why shouldn't they? The voting is still three years away."

Leading article, page 19
Cultural divide, page 48
Warnock sacked, page 48



Teen dream: Daniel Vettori, the 18-year-old left-arm spinner, contemplates the possibility of becoming New Zealand's youngest Test player on Thursday. He has been named in the squad to face England in the second Test in Wellington. England's image problem, page 50

Coca-Cola seeks way of adding fizz to cups

BY PETER BALL

SUGGESTIONS by Coca-Cola that the knockout cups that the firm sponsors in England and Scotland could be merged took the Football League by surprise yesterday. "It's news to me," Andy Williamson, the League's assistant secretary, said last night.

A more likely alternative, and one which has already been mooted, has been for the two winners to play off in a Coca-Cola Super Cup. A full merger would be logistically difficult, to say the least.

"At this stage they are just ideas," Ian Muir, a Coca-Cola spokesman, said. "It's far too early to say what we will do. There were a number of ideas discussed before we signed the agreement with the English League, and they will also be on the agenda when we meet the Scottish League."

Coca-Cola last week agreed a new £6 million sponsorship deal with the Football League and is expected to renew its

contract with the Scottish League shortly. Until that vote of confidence, the English competition's future had been questioned, with the expanding European football calendar putting increasing pressure on fixtures.

The loss of a Uefa Cup place for the winners is likely to increase the lack of enthusiasm for the competition among some of the leading FA Carling Premiership clubs. The League, however, is not yet reconciled to the loss of a European place, with suggestions from Uefa, the European governing body, that the European Cup Winners' Cup might expand, offering a possible alternative.

With Celtic suggesting last week that they would like to join the Premiership, merging the Coca-Cola competitions would be an interesting step — but for that reason alone it is likely to find little favour in official circles.

Brittle opposition hardens

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JOHN RICHARDSON, the president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), said yesterday that the position of Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the union's executive committee, was becoming "less and less tenable". Brittle has become isolated from his committee colleagues over his opposition to the agreement with England's senior clubs.

"Members were prepared to agree to his [Brittle's] request for further time for deliberation, trusting that he would stop publicly criticising and challenging decisions democratically reached by the governing body," Richardson said. "It would appear from his recent actions that his position as chairman of the executive and an officer of the union is becoming less and less tenable." In a letter to Brittle, he accused him of apparently trying to subvert the agreement and demanded that "this business must not be allowed to fester on". Brittle, a grim-visaged wit

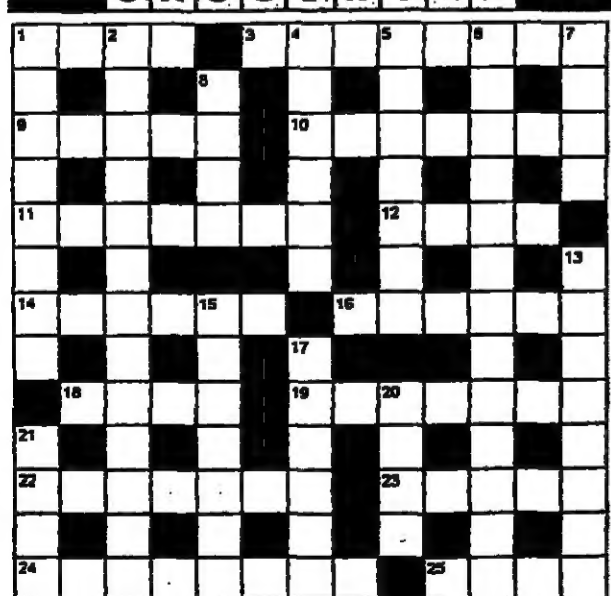
and must involve a degree of autonomy and, dare one say, trust that both clubs and the RFU seek a healthy and viable product. Richardson has given the game assurances that control has not been ceded to the senior clubs and the 50 committee members who voted for the agreement last Thursday — only four voted against — are themselves representatives of those clubs who play for fun.

The committee also agreed that it should elect the executive chairman in future, as opposed to the nationwide vote that swept Brittle to power a year ago. That decision, however, could be thrown out by a special general meeting because it involves constitutional change.

Yet Brittle knows that the management of the game's top

Central dilemma, page 49

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1008

ACROSS

- 1 Pacific ex-colony (4)
- 3 Very much; emphatically (5)
- 5 Spanish coast; rib (tech.) (5)
- 9 Book of Creation (7)
- 10 Render unusable (7)
- 12 Regular amount, pattern (4)
- 14 Sagacity; 12aa —, comedienne (6)
- 16 Interfere (6)
- 18 Dash; arrow; fabric roll (4)
- 19 One abjuring pleasure (7)
- 22 Famous, distinguished (7)
- 23 Hooded snake (5)
- 24 Wrongly-used term (8)
- 25 Nuisance (4)

DOWN

- 1 Confront (card) with value hidden (4,4)
- 2 Kipling children's tales (4,2,7)
- 4 Valuable lump (6)
- 5 Act of contrition (7)
- 6 Shameful (13)
- 7 Fair to middling (2-2)
- 8 Young sheep (4)
- 13 Trader (8)
- 15 Busy (2,3,2)
- 17 Cloak; region below Earth crust (6)
- 20 Bird; pile of hay (4)
- 21 Pullulate (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1007

ACROSS: 1 Open prison 8 Disband 9 Alpha 10 Brew 11 Dead duck 13 Lagoon 15 Asleep 17 Thankful 18 Coin 21 Tribe 22 Larceny 23 Resentment
DOWN: 2 Pistre 3 Neap 4 Red Sea 5 Slapdash 6 Neptune 7 Hank-panty 8 Deblatate 12 For keeps 14 Glacier 16 Sullen 19 Ocean 20 Grim

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